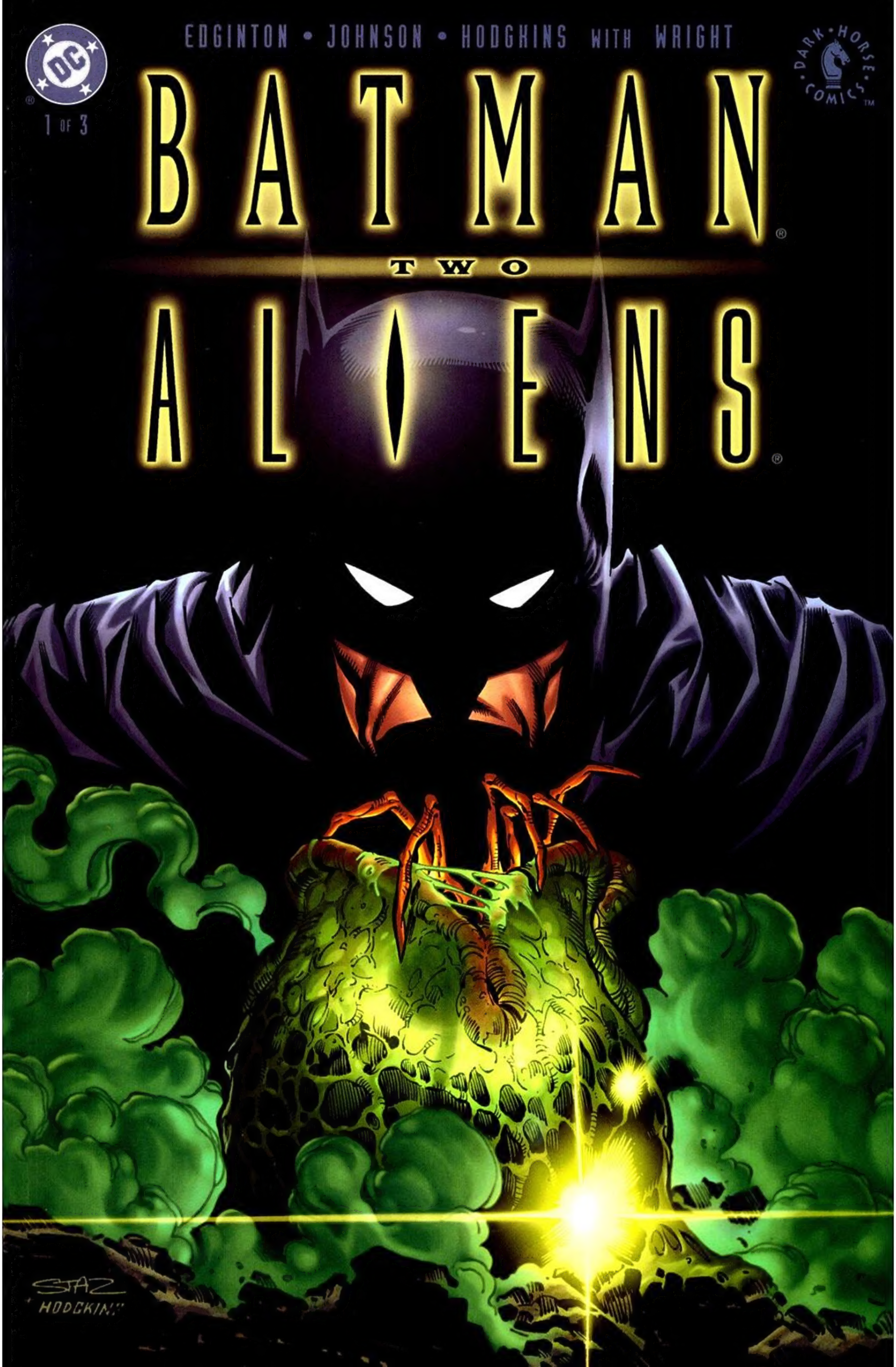
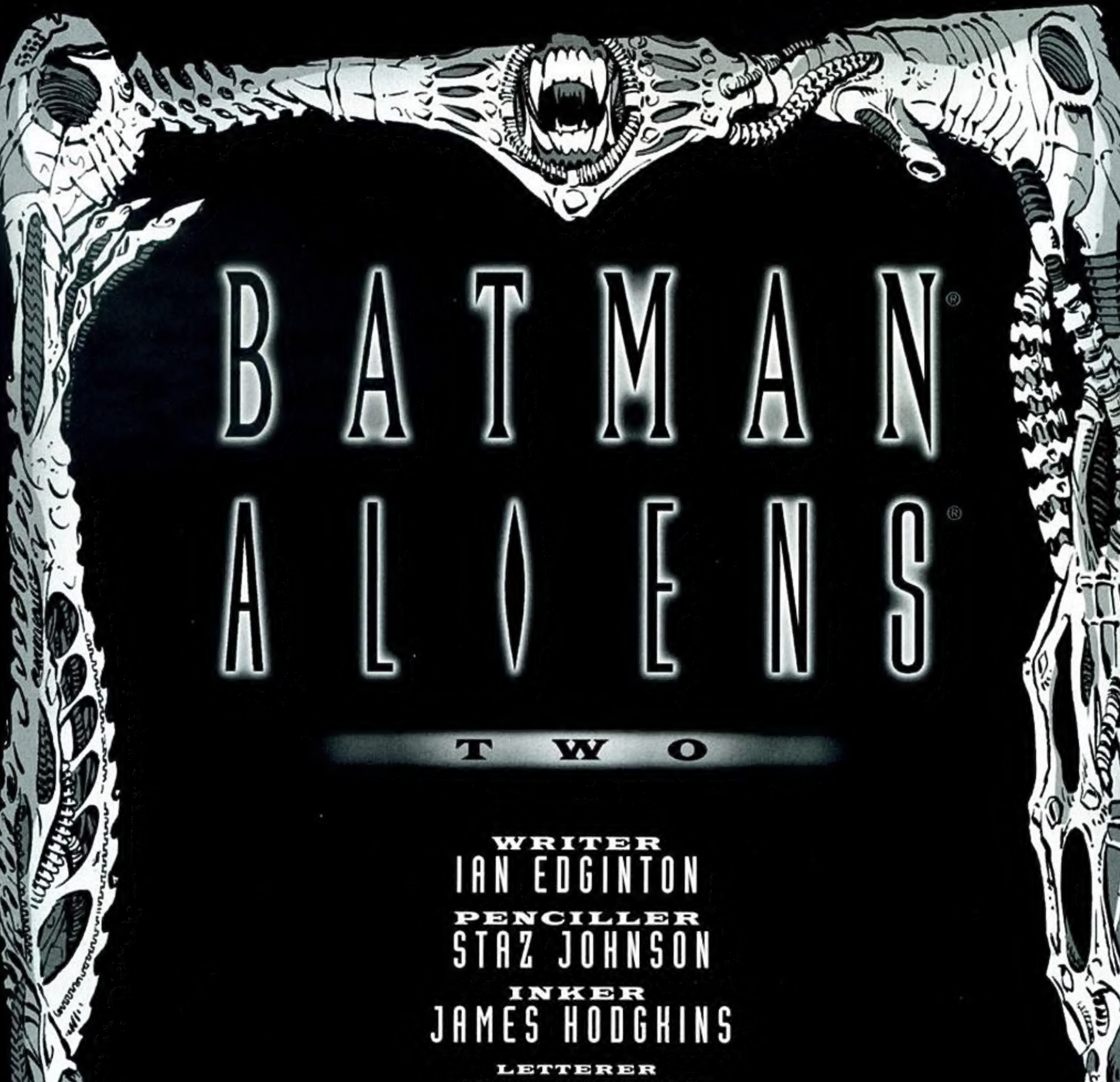
EDGINTON • JOHNSON • HODGKINS WITH WRIGHT

1 OF 3

BATMAN® TWO ALIENS®


STAZ
HODGKINS



BATMAN®
ALIENS®

TWO

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

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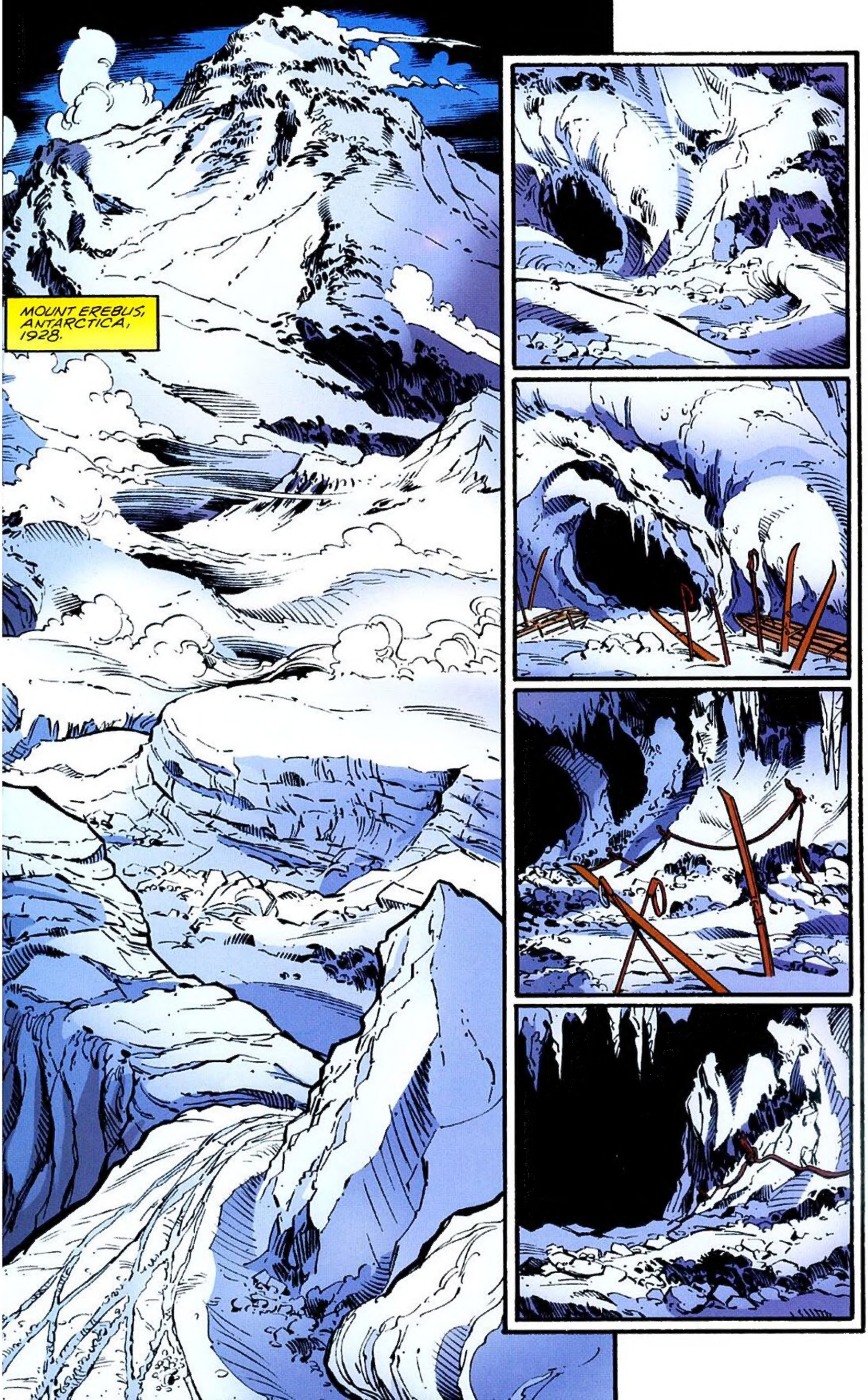
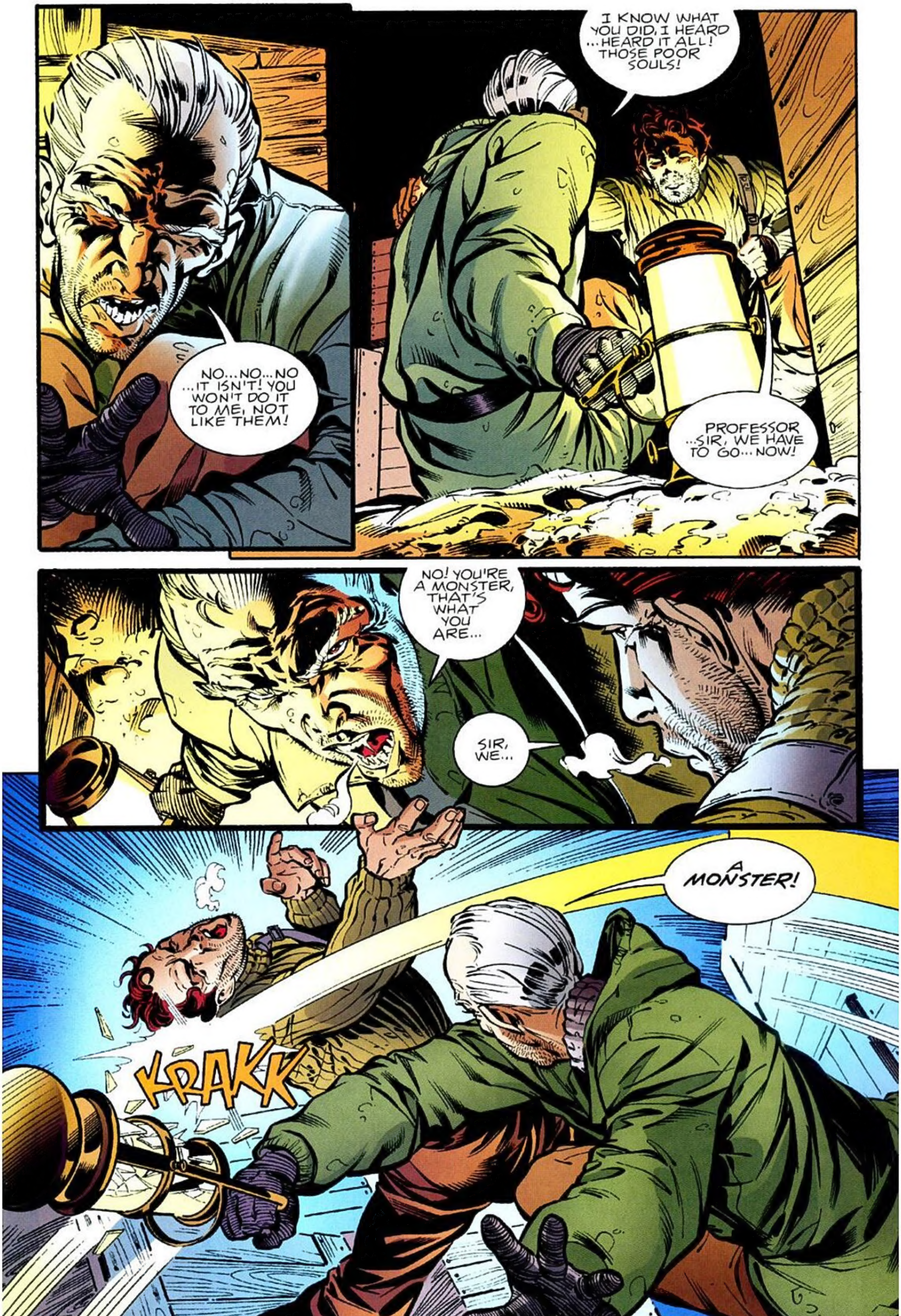
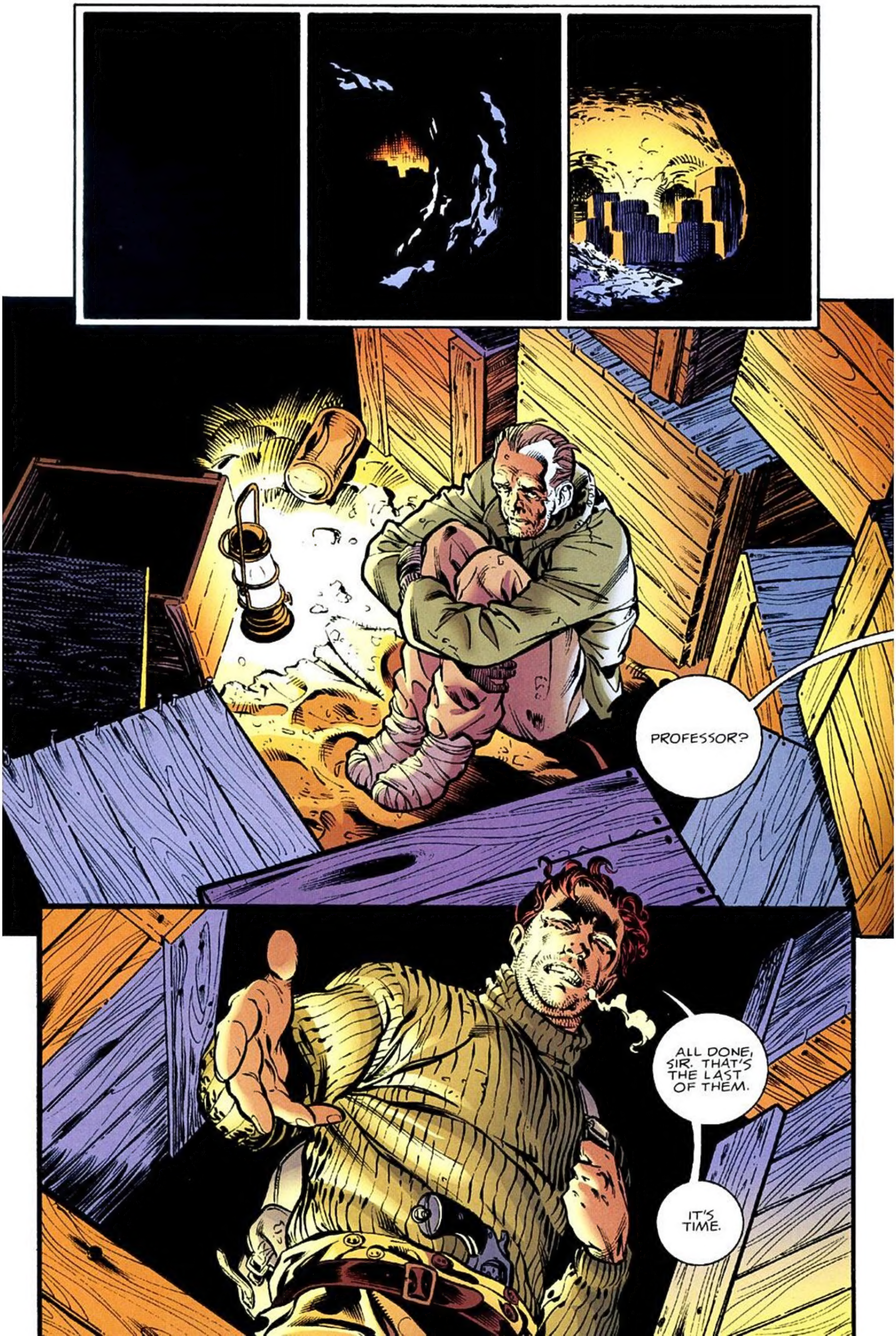
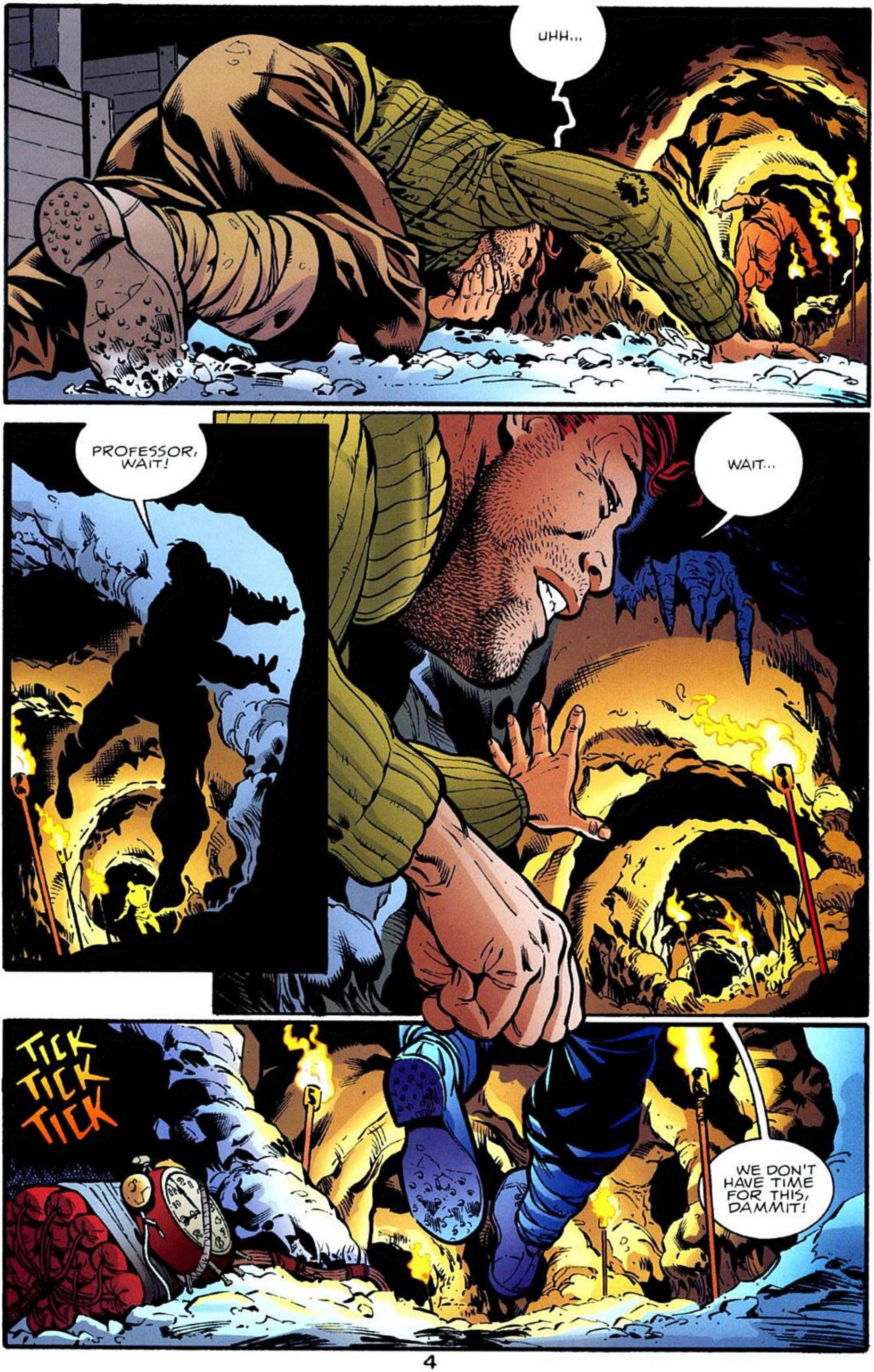
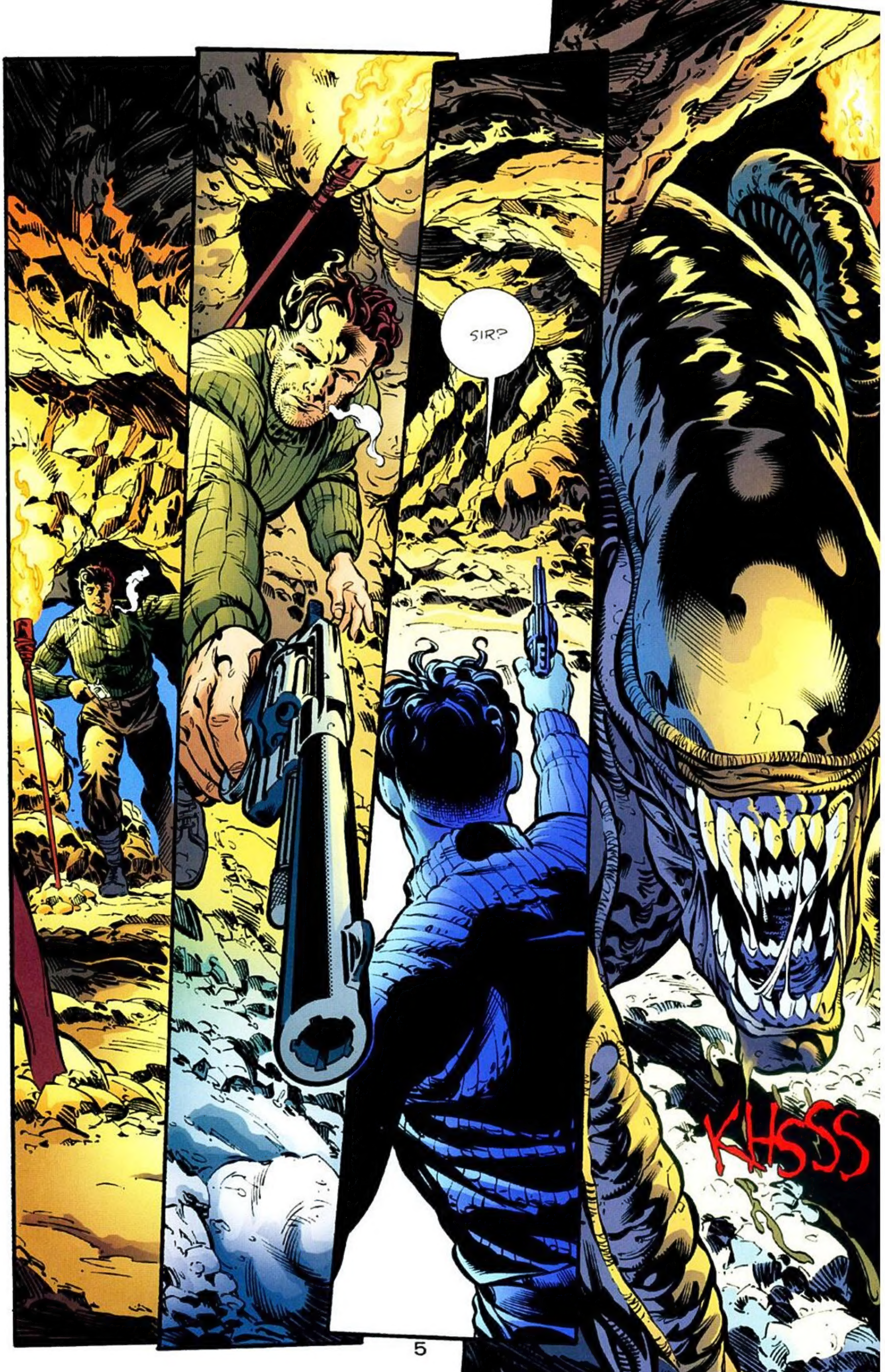


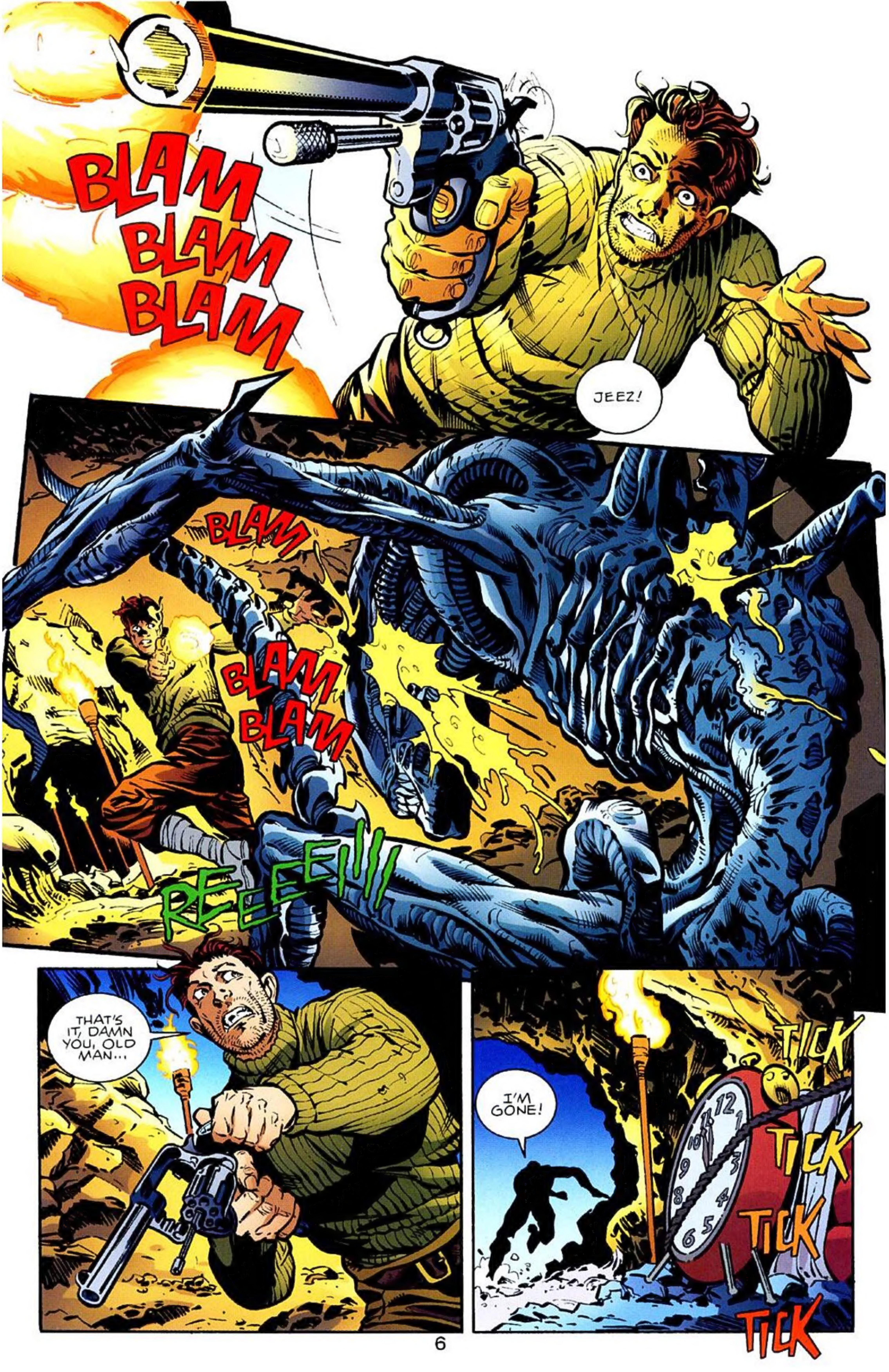
MOUNT EREBUS, ANTARCTICA, 1928.

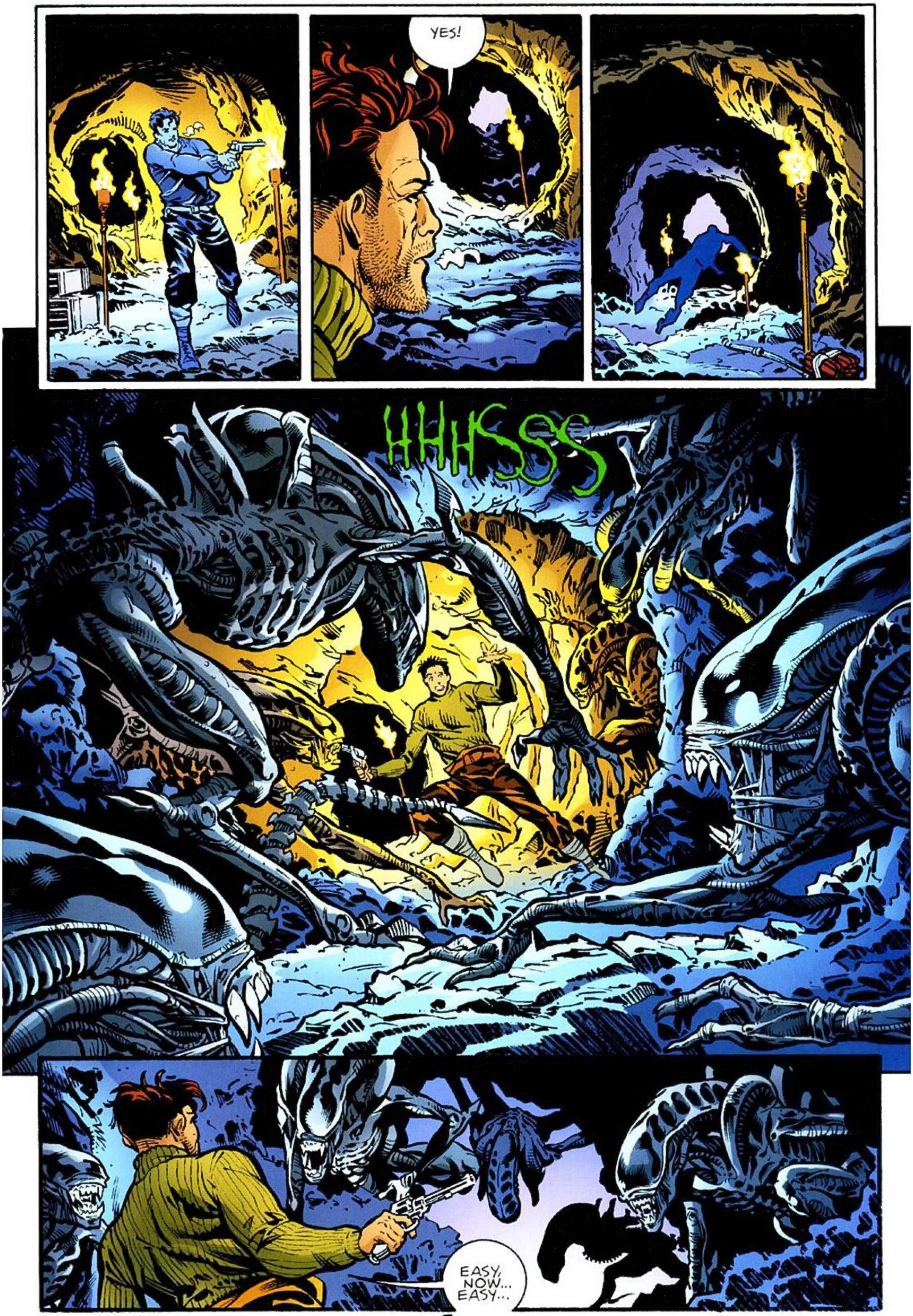

NO...NO...NO ...IT ISN'T! YOU WON'T DO IT TO ME, NOT LIKE THEM!
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID, I HEARD ...HEARD IT ALL! THOSE POOR SOULS!
PROFESSOR ...SIR, WE HAVE TO GO...NOW!
NO! YOU'RE A MONSTER, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE...
SIR, WE...
A MONSTER!
KRAKK

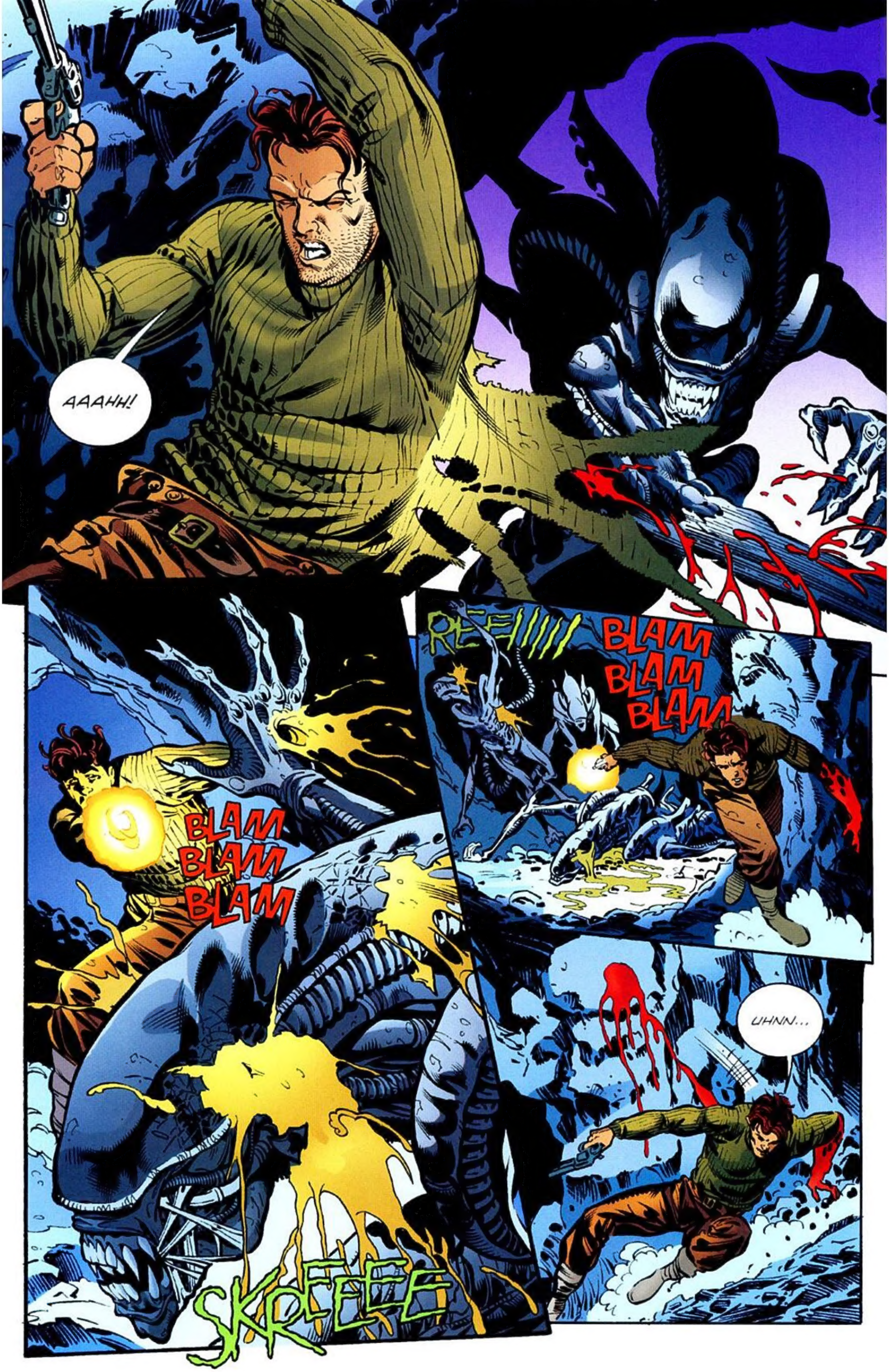

PROFESSOR?
ALL DONE, SIR. THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.
IT'S TIME.

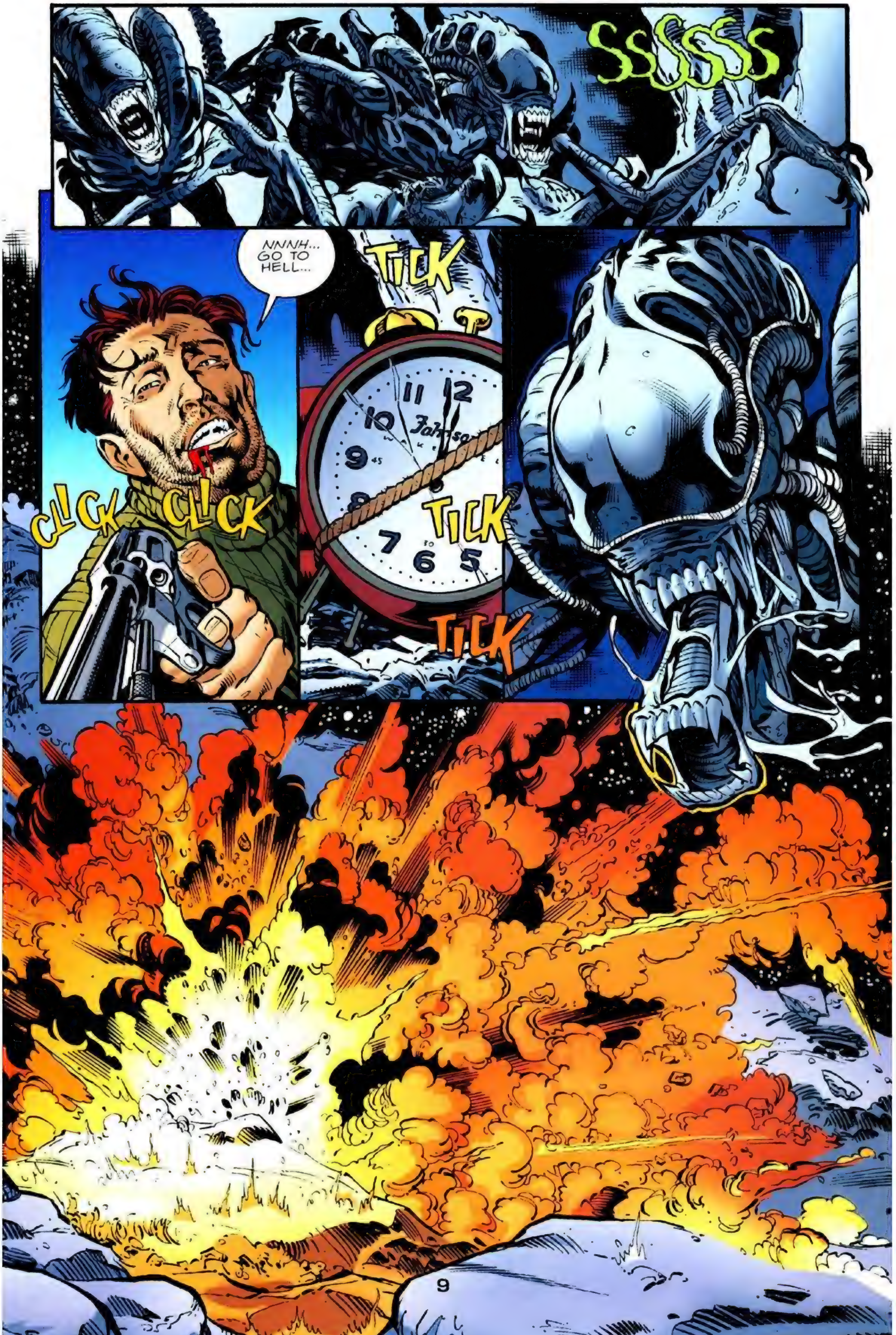

UHH...
PROFESSOR, WAIT!
WAIT...
TICK TICK TICK
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, DAMMIT!

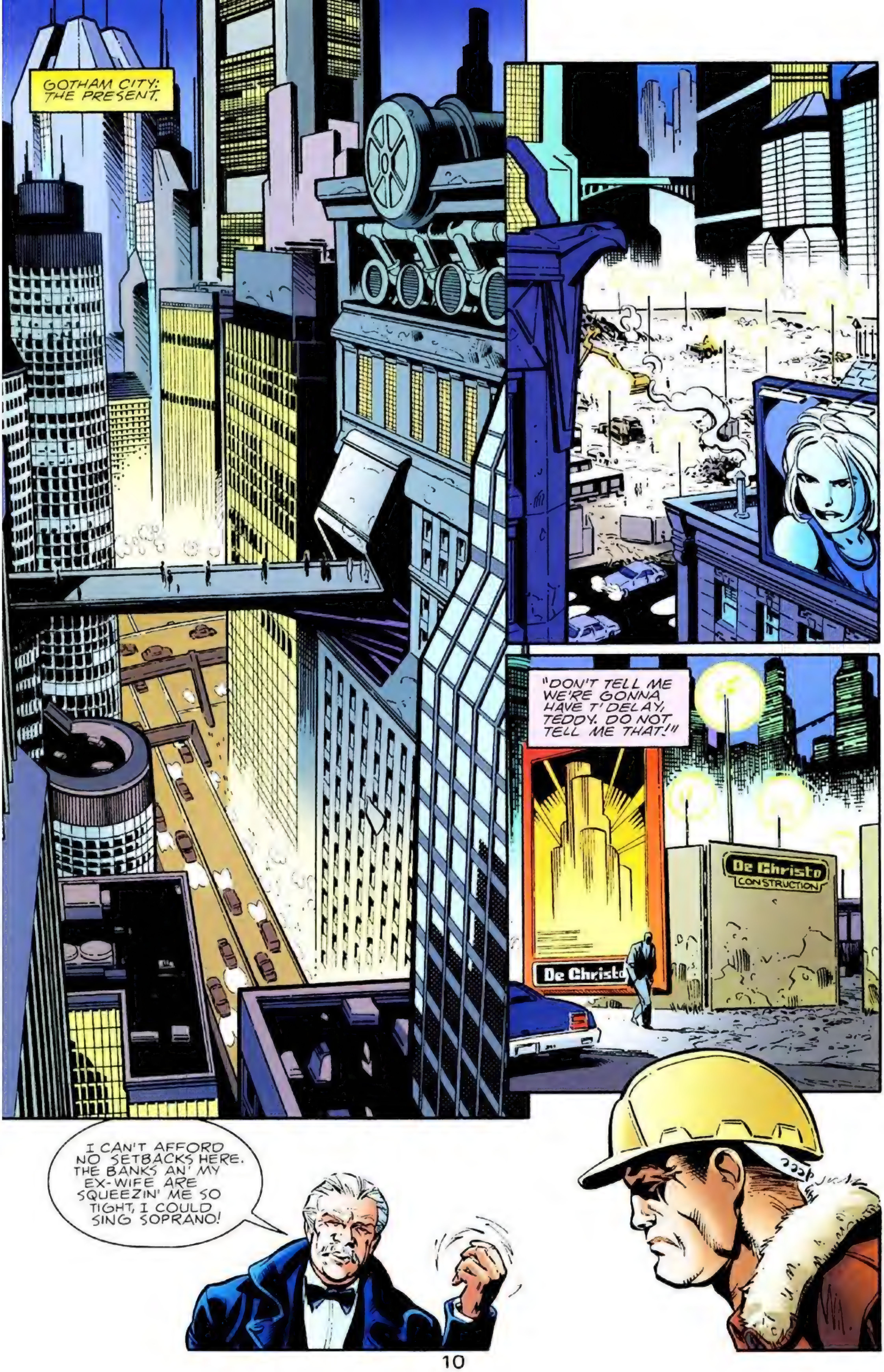

SIR?
KHSSS

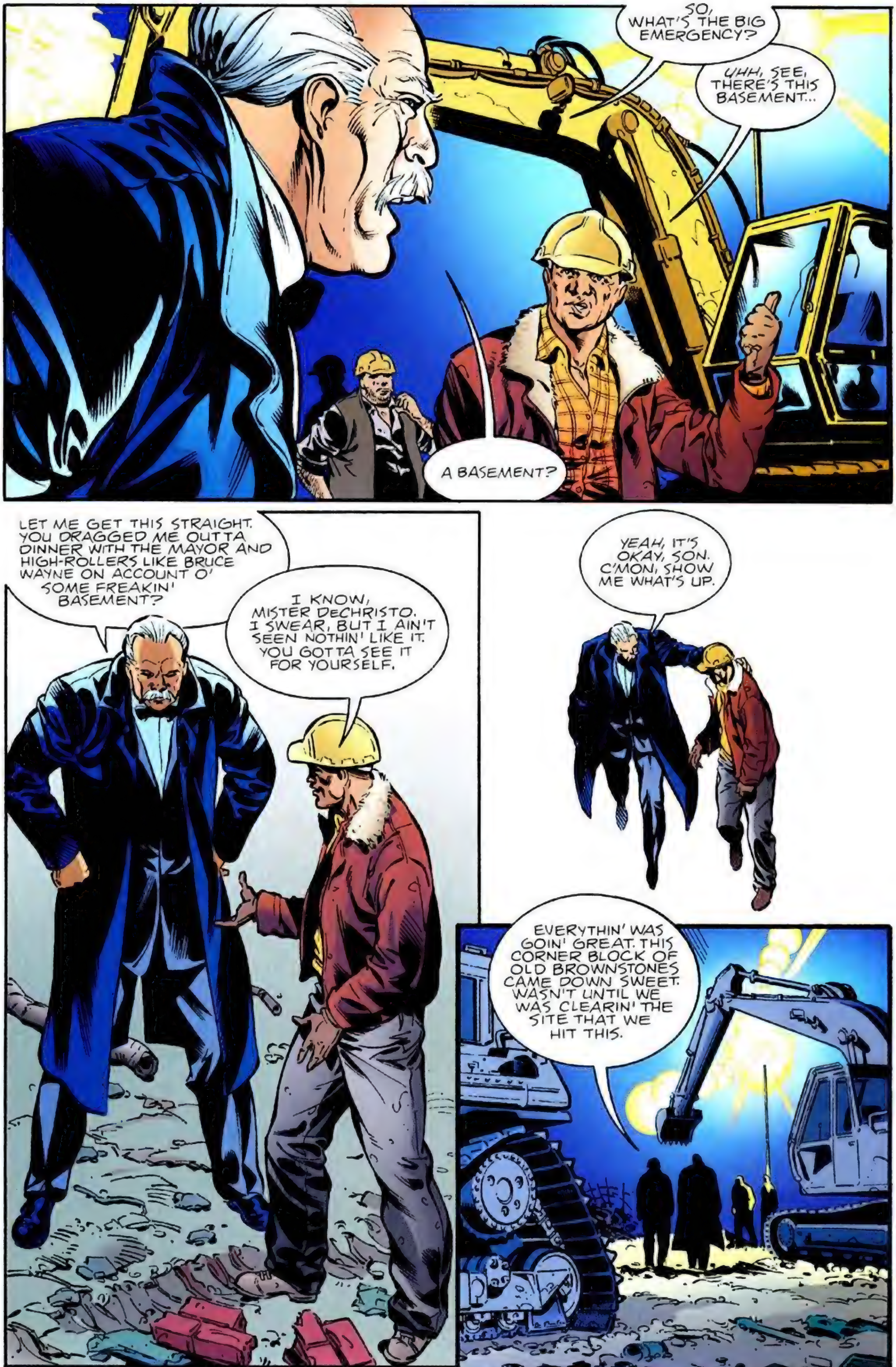

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
JEEZ!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
REEEEE!!!
THAT'S IT, DAMN YOU, OLD MAN...
I'M GONE!
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

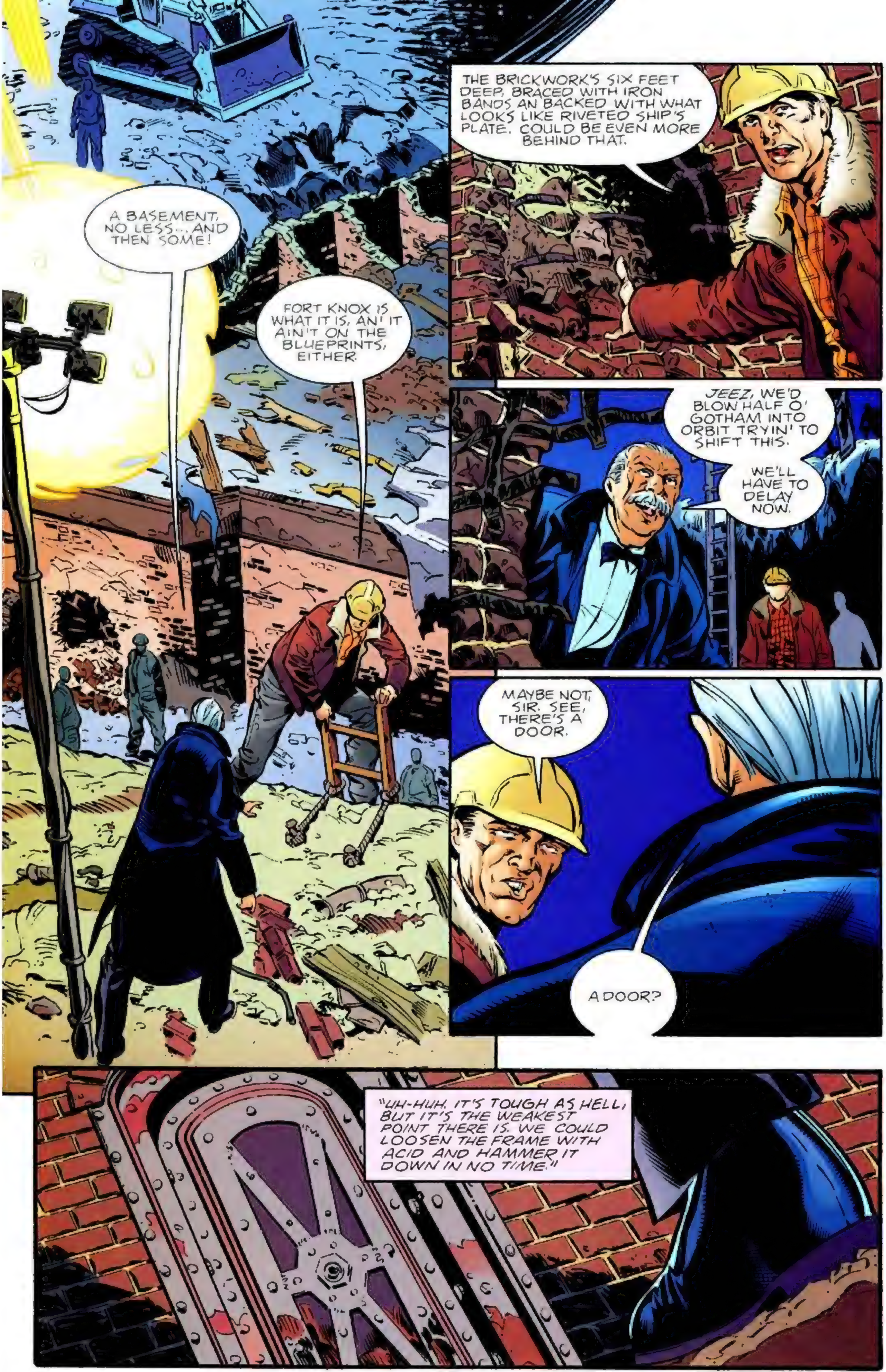

YES!
HHHSSS
EASY, NOW... EASY...

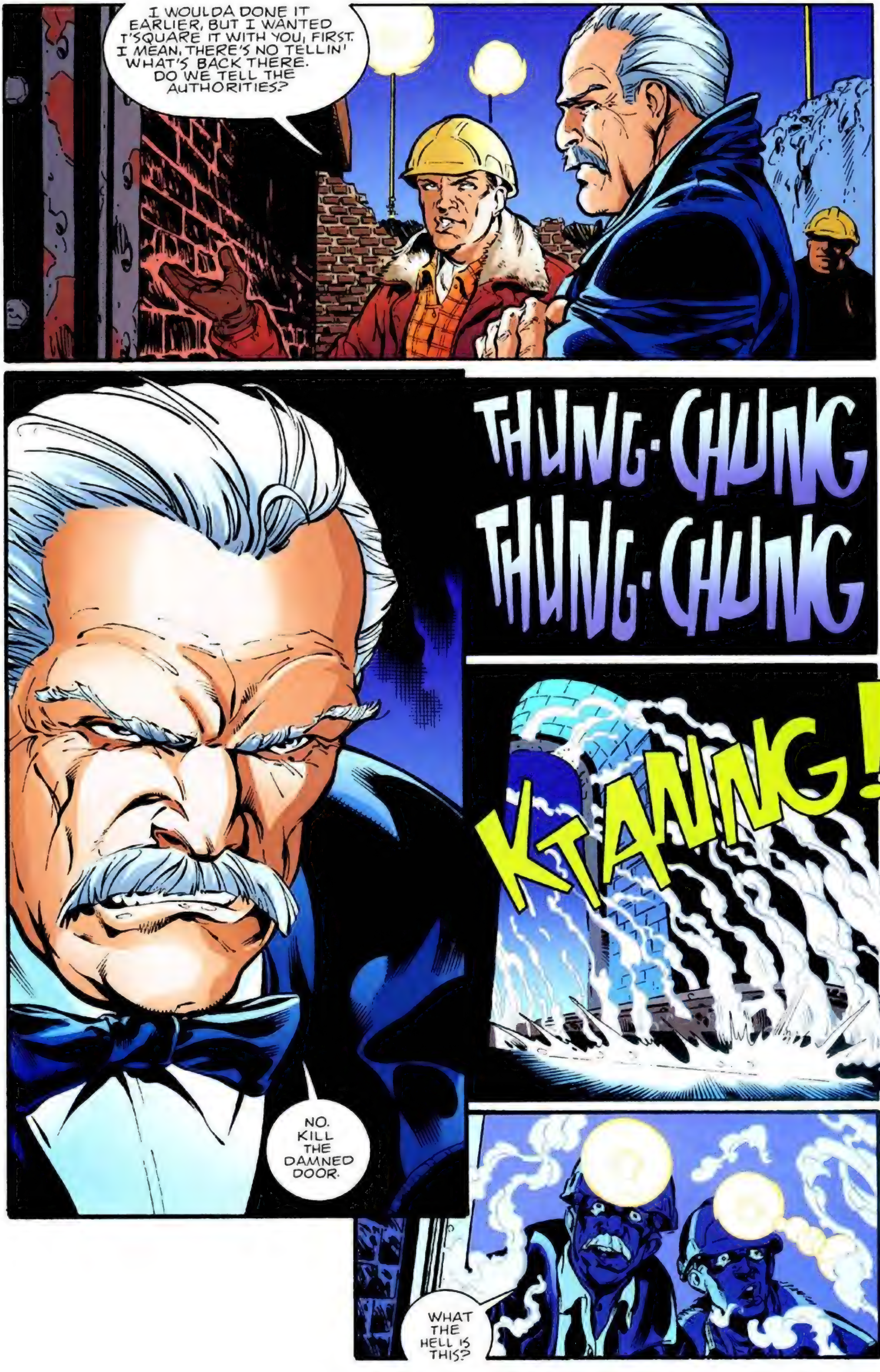

AAAHH!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SKREEEEE
REEIIIIII
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
UHNN...

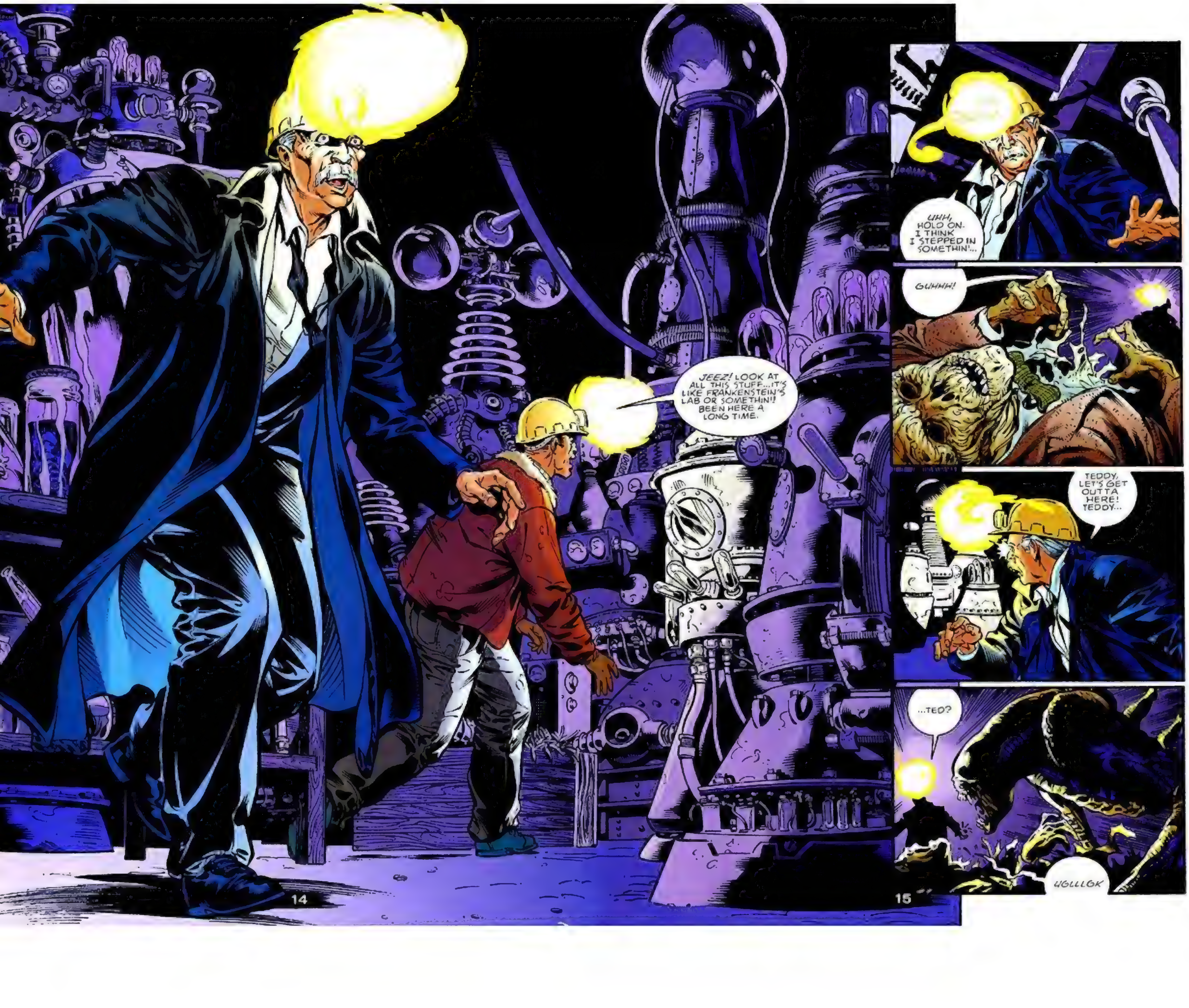

SSSSSS
NNNH... GO TO HELL...
CLICK CLICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

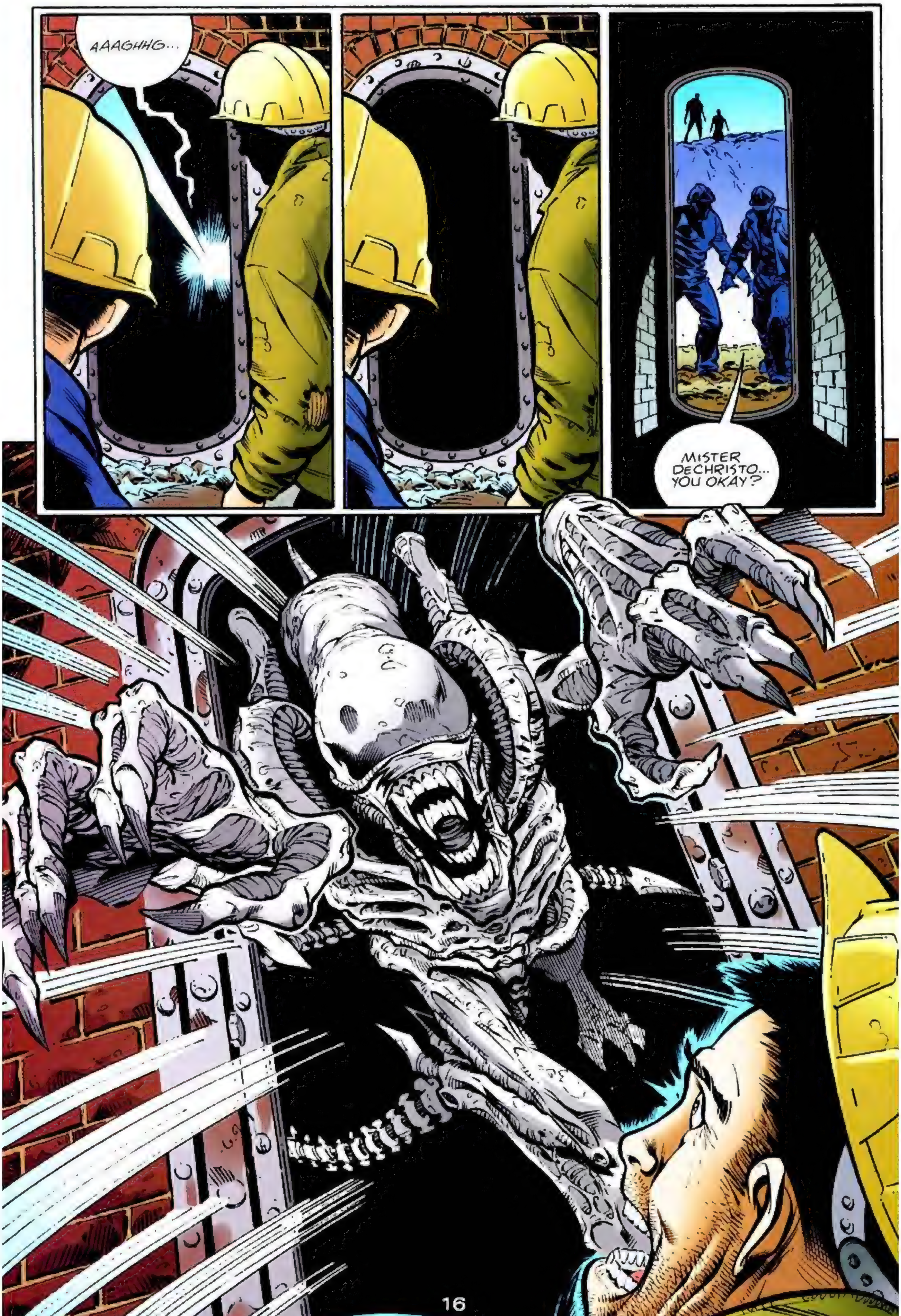

GOTHAM CITY: THE PRESENT.
"DON'T TELL ME WE'RE GONNA HAVE T' DELAY, TEDDY. DO NOT TELL ME THAT!"
De Christo CONSTRUCTION
De Christo
I CAN'T AFFORD NO SETBACKS HERE. THE BANKS AN' MY EX-WIFE ARE SQUEEZIN' ME SO TIGHT, I COULD SING SOPRANO!

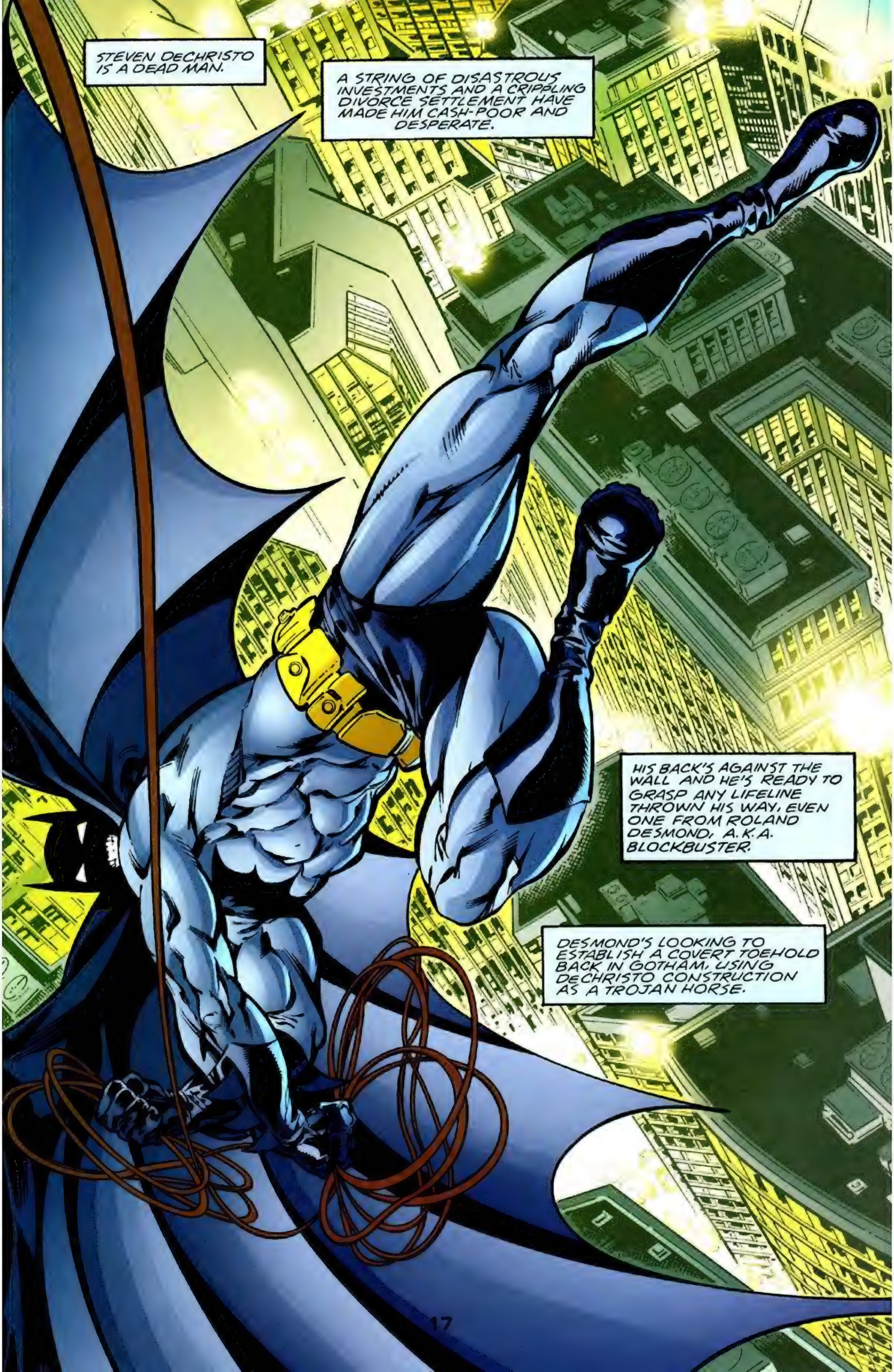

SO, WHAT'S THE BIG EMERGENCY?
UHH, SEE, THERE'S THIS BASEMENT...
A BASEMENT?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU DRAGGED ME OUTTA DINNER WITH THE MAYOR AND HIGH-ROLLERS LIKE BRUCE WAYNE ON ACCOUNT O' SOME FREAKIN' BASEMENT?
I KNOW, MISTER DeCHRISTO. I SWEAR, BUT I AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' LIKE IT. YOU GOTTA SEE IT FOR YOURSELF.
YEAH, IT'S OKAY, SON. C'MON, SHOW ME WHAT'S UP.
EVERYTHIN' WAS GOIN' GREAT. THIS CORNER BLOCK OF OLD BROWNSTONES CAME DOWN SWEET. WASN'T UNTIL WE WAS CLEARIN' THE SITE THAT WE HIT THIS.

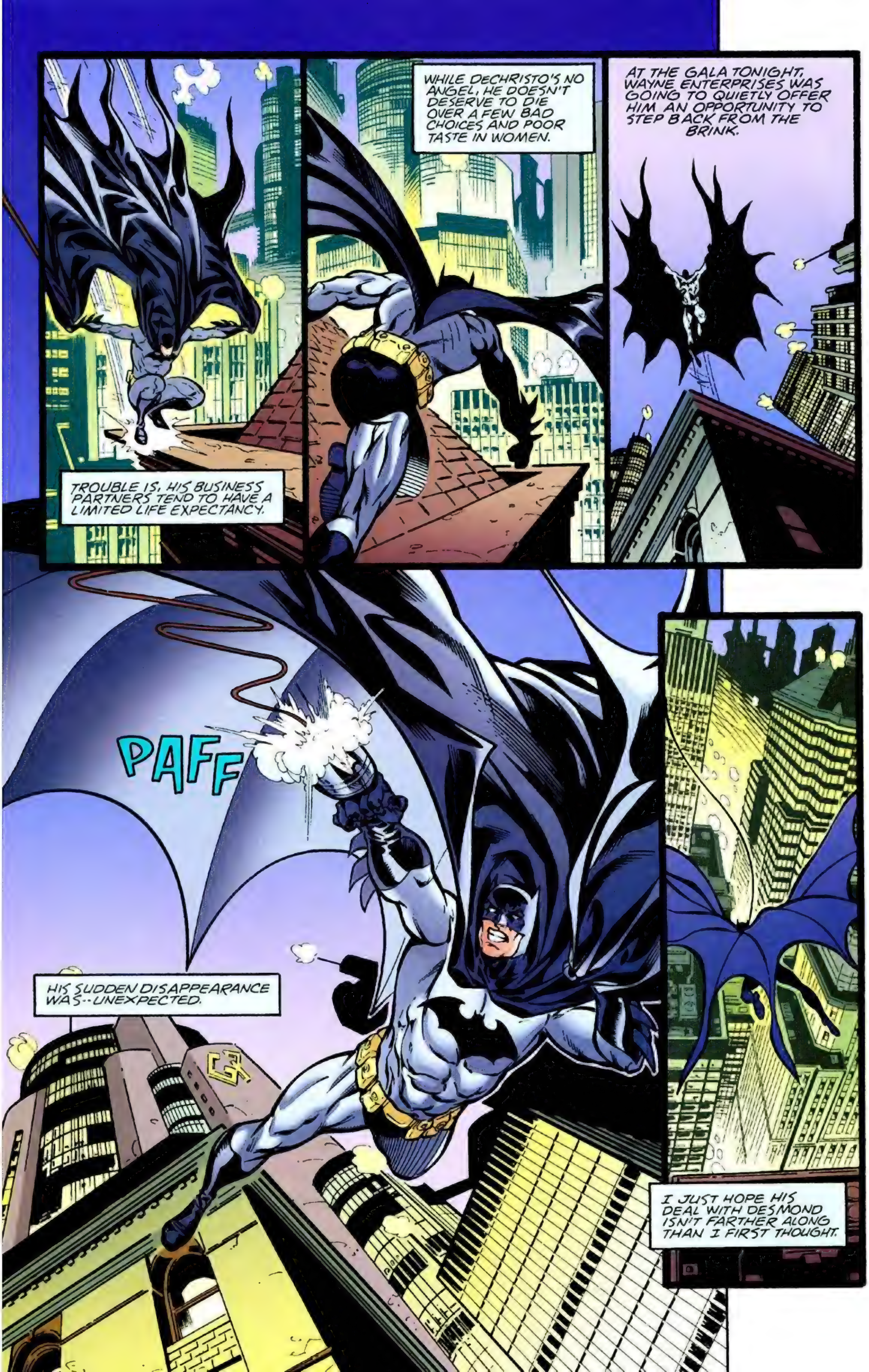

A BASEMENT, NO LESS... AND THEN SOME!
FORT KNOX IS WHAT IT IS, AN' IT AIN'T ON THE BLUEPRINTS, EITHER.
THE BRICKWORK'S SIX FEET DEEP, BRACED WITH IRON BANDS AN BACKED WITH WHAT LOOKS LIKE RIVETED SHIP'S PLATE. COULD BE EVEN MORE BEHIND THAT.
JEEZ, WE'D BLOW HALF O' GOTHAM INTO ORBIT TRYIN' TO SHIFT THIS.
WE'LL HAVE TO DELAY NOW.
MAYBE NOT, SIR. SEE, THERE'S A DOOR.
A DOOR?
"UH-HUH. IT'S TOUGH AS HELL, BUT IT'S THE WEAKEST POINT THERE IS. WE COULD LOOSEN THE FRAME WITH ACID AND HAMMER IT DOWN IN NO TIME."

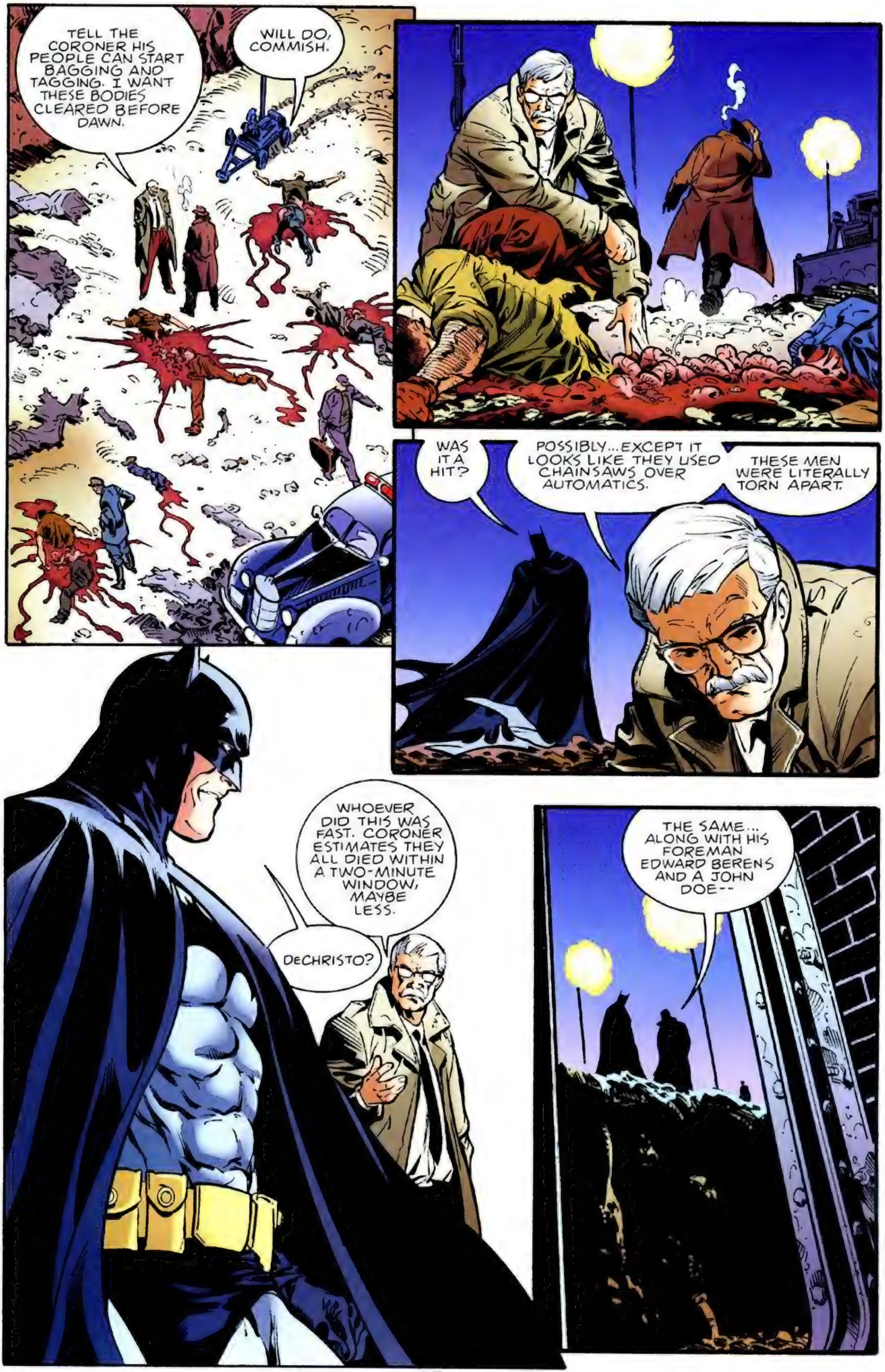

I WOULDA DONE IT EARLIER, BUT I WANTED T'SQUARE IT WITH YOU, FIRST. I MEAN, THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHAT'S BACK THERE. DO WE TELL THE AUTHORITIES?
THUNG-CHUNG THUNG-CHUNG
KTANNG!
NO. KILL THE DAMNED DOOR.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

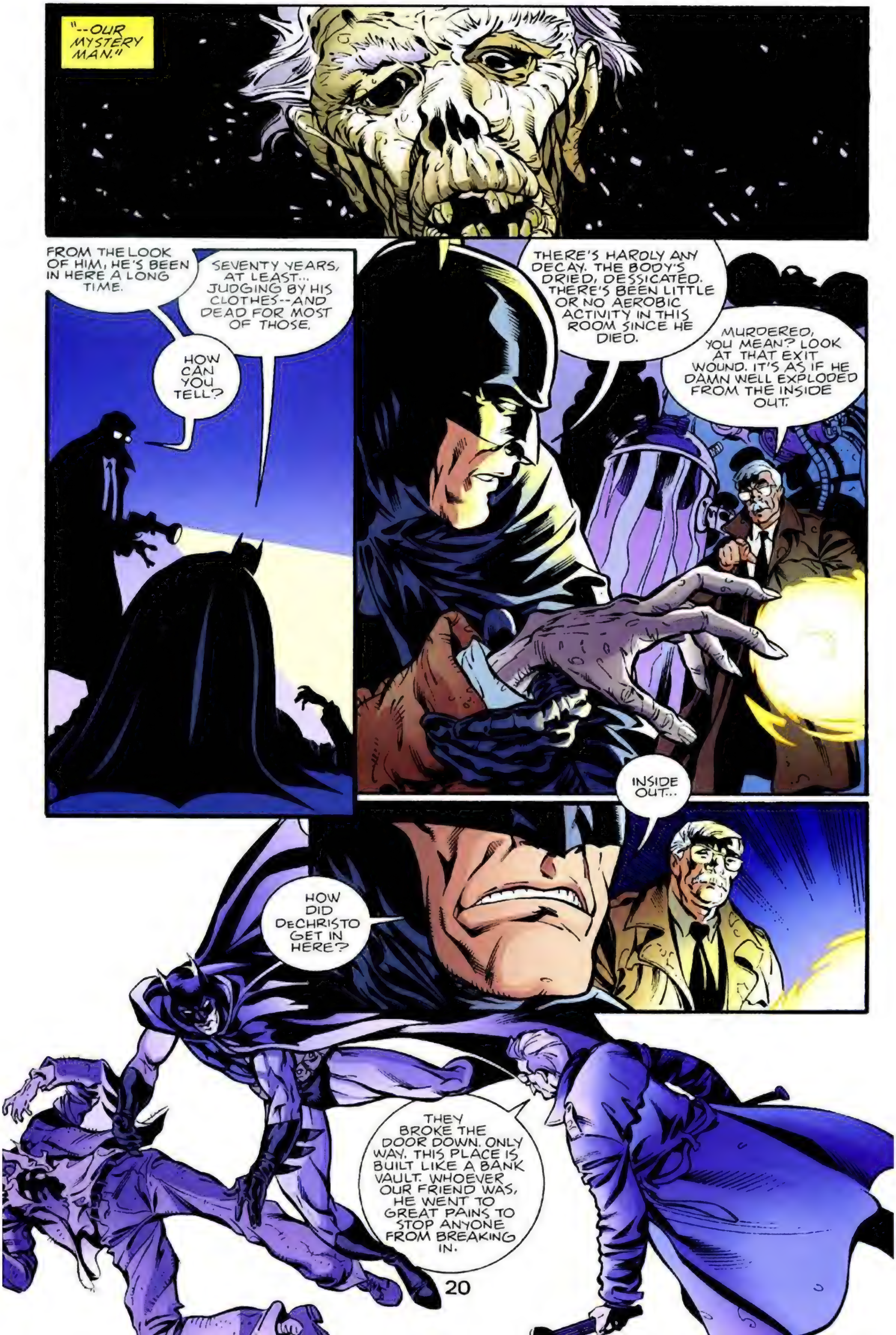

JEEZ! LOOK AT ALL THIS STUFF...IT'S LIKE FRANKENSTEIN'S LAB OR SOMETHIN'! BEEN HERE A LONG TIME.
UHH, HOLD ON. I THINK I STEPPED IN SOMETHIN'...
GUHHH!
TEDDY, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE! TEDDY...
...TED?
UGLLLGK

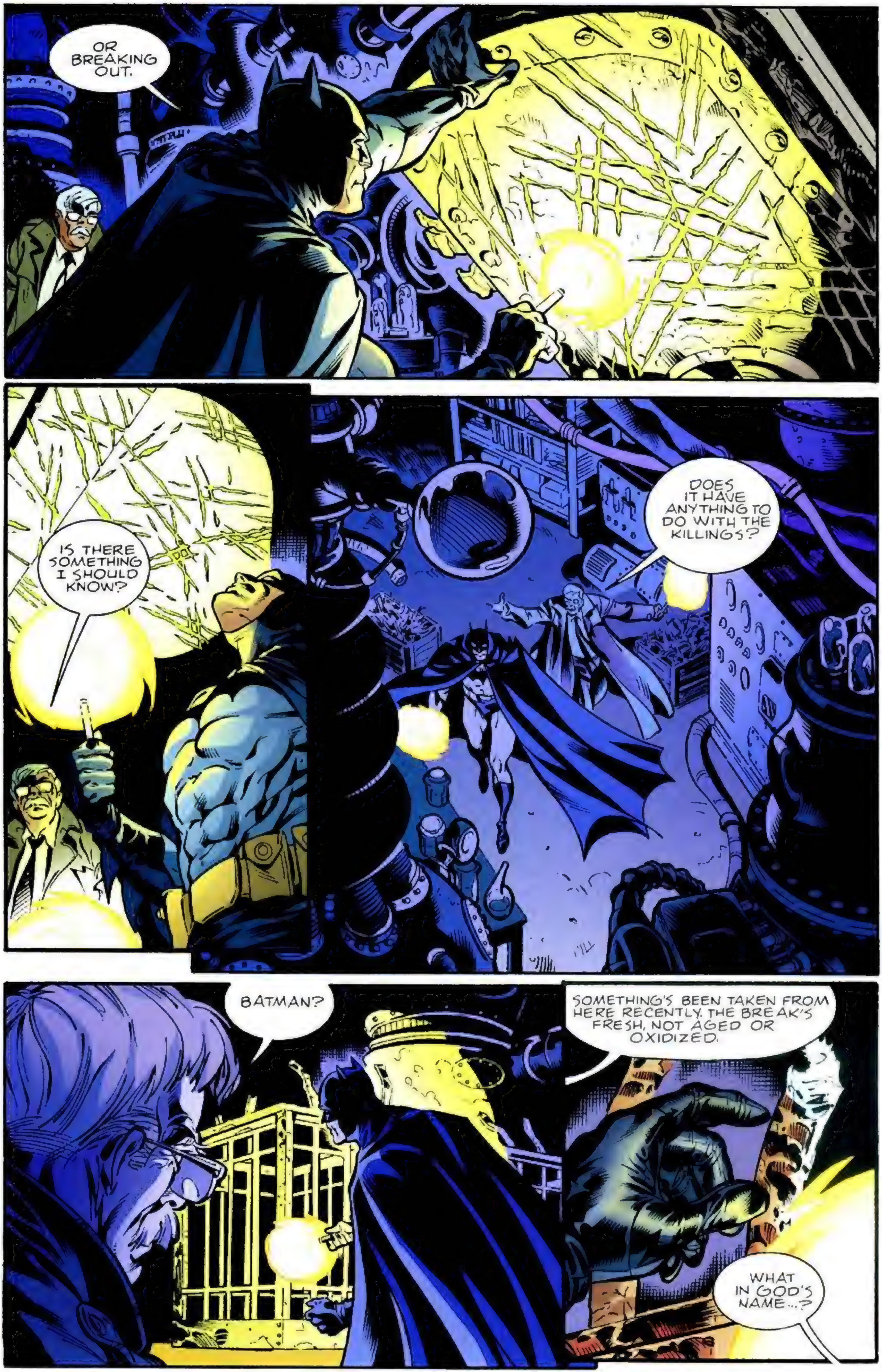

AAAGHHG...
MISTER DECHRISTO... YOU OKAY?

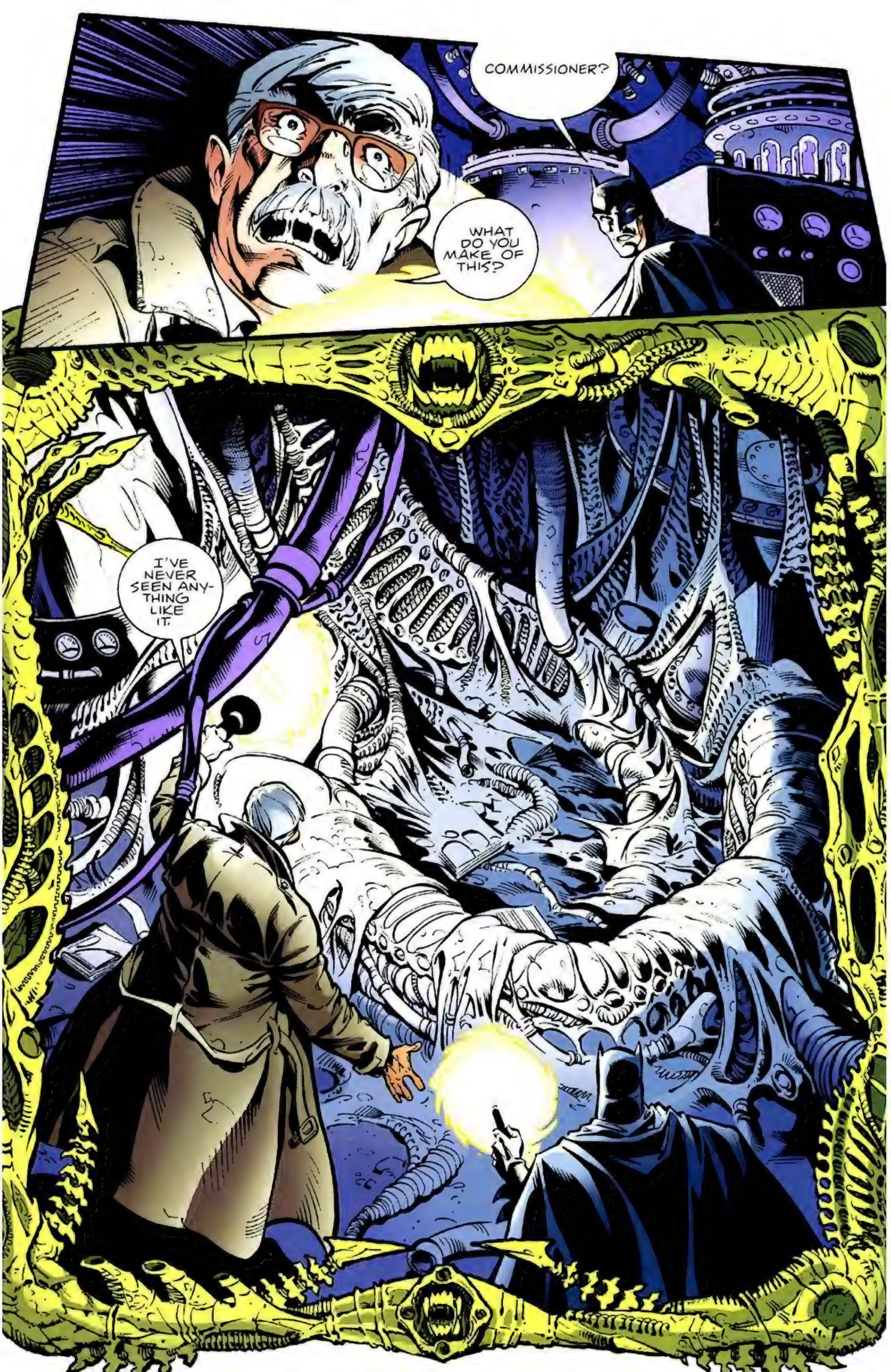

STEVEN DECHRISTO IS A DEAD MAN.
A STRING OF DISASTROUS INVESTMENTS AND A CRIPPLING DIVORCE SETTLEMENT HAVE MADE HIM CASH-POOR AND DESPERATE.
HIS BACK'S AGAINST THE WALL AND HE'S READY TO GRASP ANY LIFELINE THROWN HIS WAY, EVEN ONE FROM ROLAND DESMOND, A.K.A. BLOCKBUSTER.
DESMOND'S LOOKING TO ESTABLISH A COVERT TOEHOLD BACK IN GOTHAM, USING DeCHRISTO CONSTRUCTION AS A TROJAN HORSE.

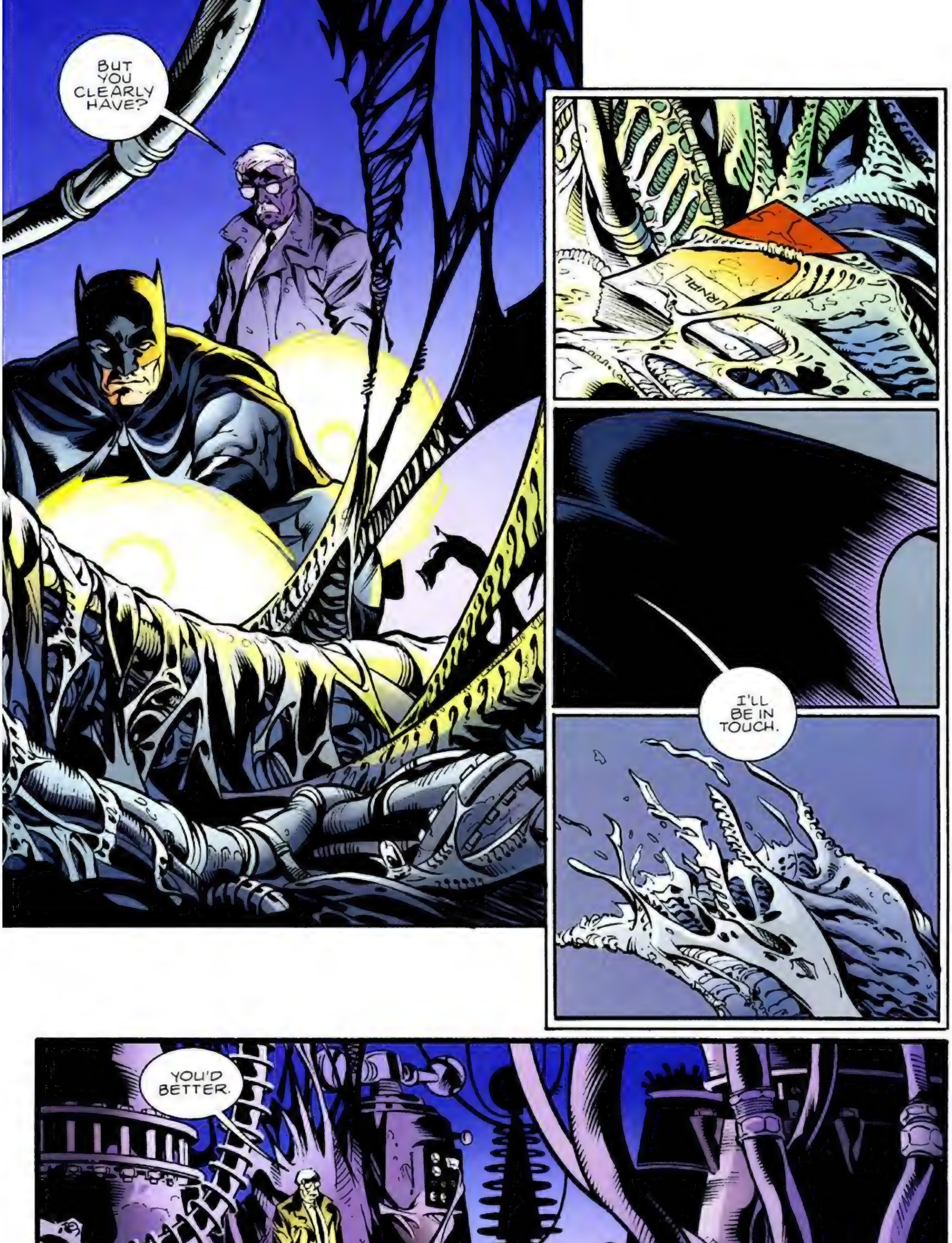

TROUBLE IS, HIS BUSINESS PARTNERS TEND TO HAVE A LIMITED LIFE EXPECTANCY.
WHILE DECHRISTO'S NO ANGEL, HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO DIE OVER A FEW BAD CHOICES AND POOR TASTE IN WOMEN.
AT THE GALA TONIGHT, WAYNE ENTERPRISES WAS GOING TO QUIETLY OFFER HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP BACK FROM THE BRINK.
PAFF
HIS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE WAS--UNEXPECTED.
I JUST HOPE HIS DEAL WITH DESMOND ISN'T FARTHER ALONG THAN I FIRST THOUGHT.

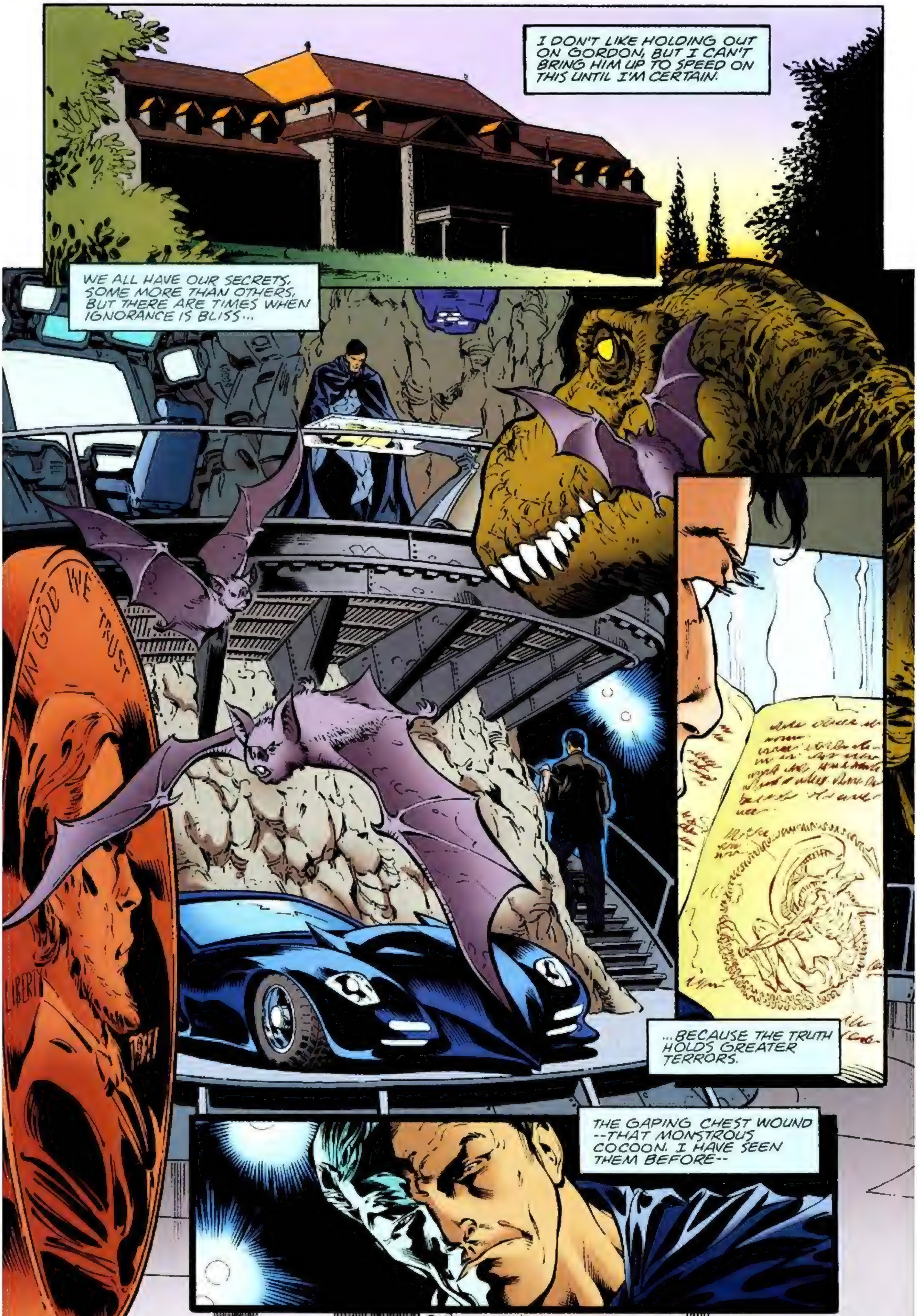

TELL THE CORONER HIS PEOPLE CAN START BAGGING AND TAGGING. I WANT THESE BODIES CLEARED BEFORE DAWN.
WILL DO, COMMISH.
WAS IT A HIT?
POSSIBLY... EXCEPT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY USED CHAINSAWS OVER AUTOMATICS.
THESE MEN WERE LITERALLY TORN APART.
WHOEVER DID THIS WAS FAST. CORONER ESTIMATES THEY ALL DIED WITHIN A TWO-MINUTE WINDOW, MAYBE LESS.
DECHRISTO?
THE SAME... ALONG WITH HIS FOREMAN EDWARD BERENS AND A JOHN DOE--

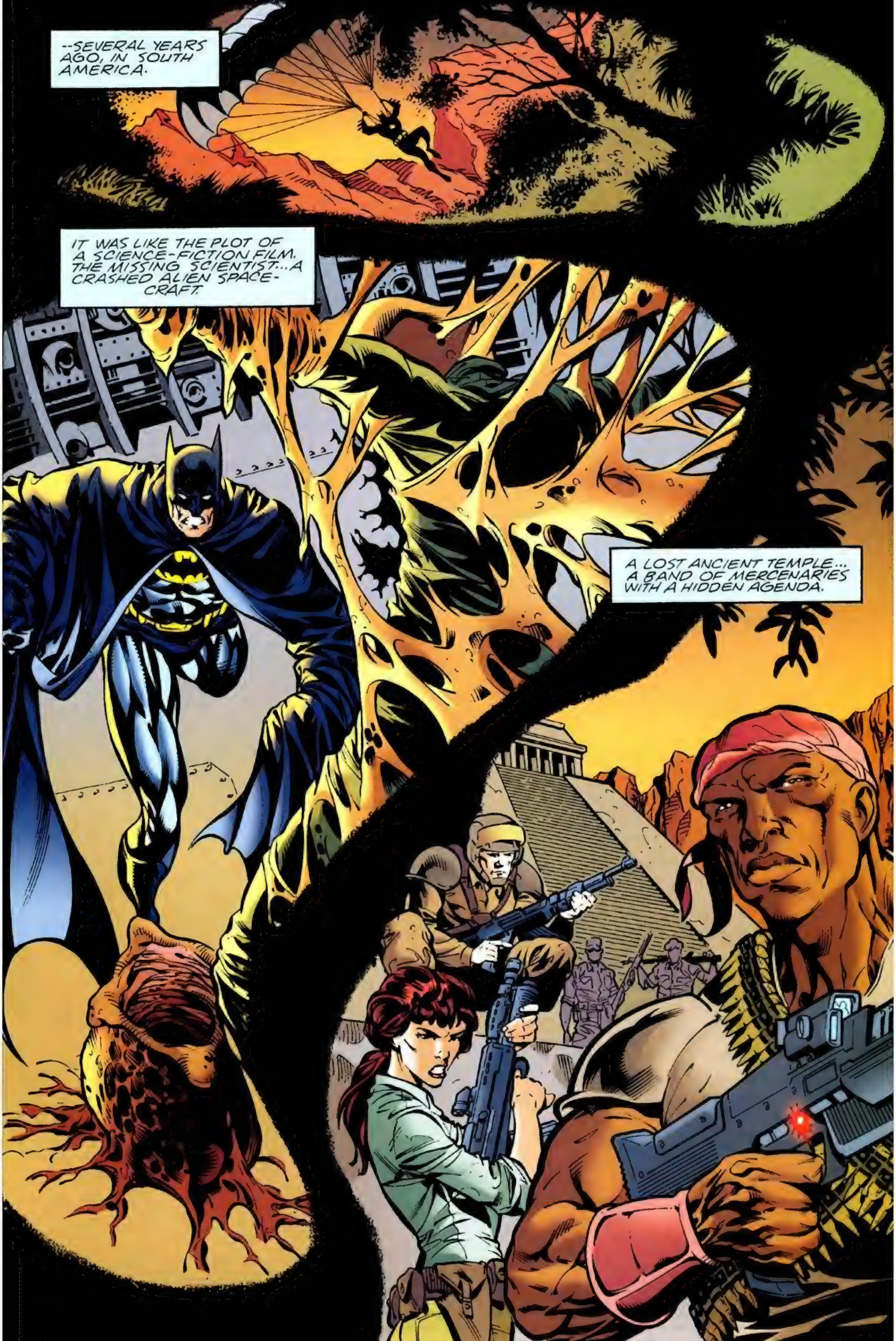

"--OUR MYSTERY MAN."
FROM THE LOOK OF HIM, HE'S BEEN IN HERE A LONG TIME.
SEVENTY YEARS, AT LEAST... JUDGING BY HIS CLOTHES--AND DEAD FOR MOST OF THOSE.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
THERE'S HARDLY ANY DECAY. THE BODY'S DRIED, DESSICATED. THERE'S BEEN LITTLE OR NO AEROBIC ACTIVITY IN THIS ROOM SINCE HE DIED.
MURDERED, YOU MEAN? LOOK AT THAT EXIT WOUND. IT'S AS IF HE DAMN WELL EXPLODED FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
INSIDE OUT...
HOW DID DeCHRISTO GET IN HERE?
THEY BROKE THE DOOR DOWN. ONLY WAY. THIS PLACE IS BUILT LIKE A BANK VAULT. WHOEVER OUR FRIEND WAS, HE WENT TO GREAT PAINS TO STOP ANYONE FROM BREAKING IN.

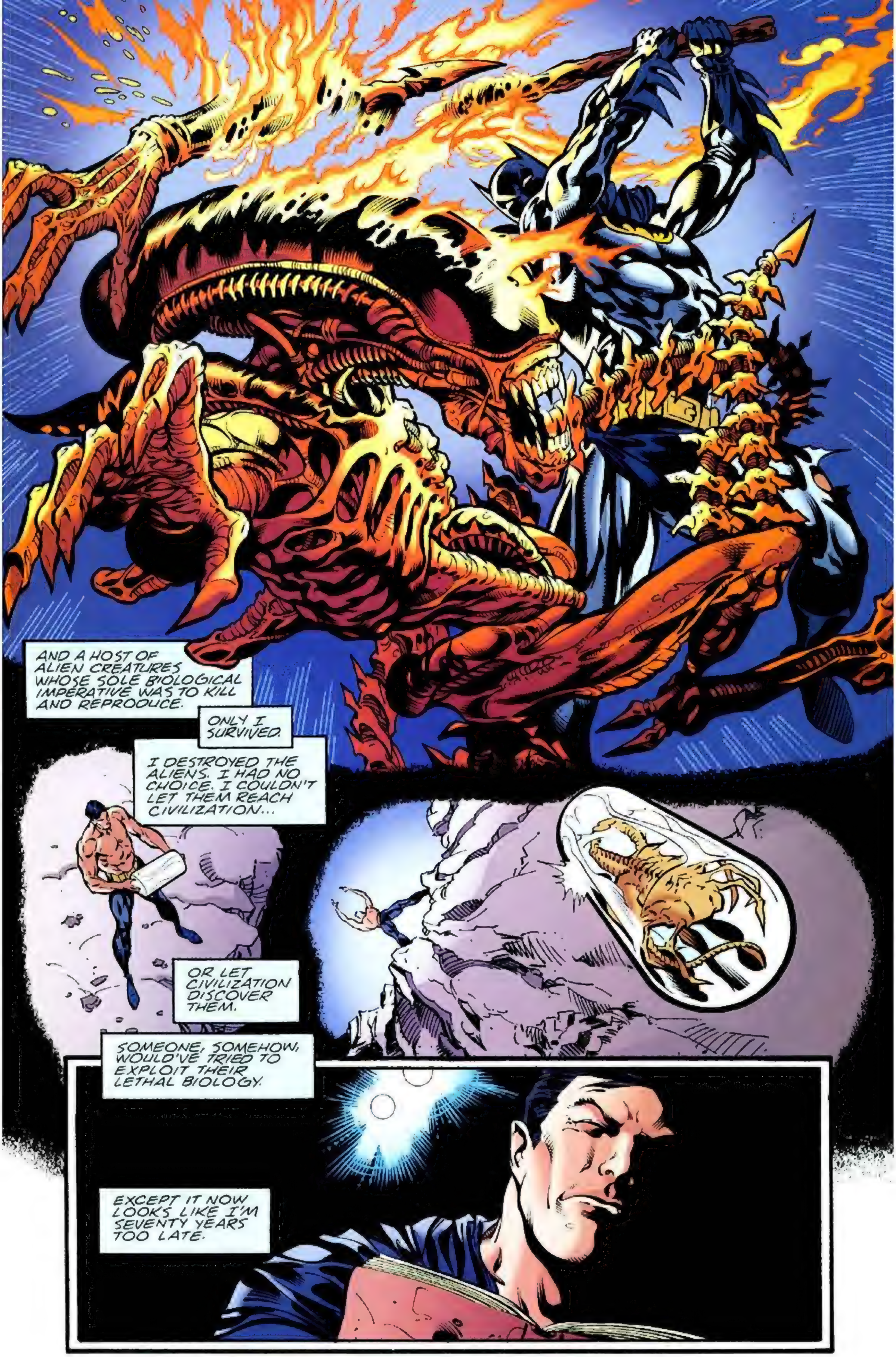

OR BREAKING OUT.
IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW?
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE KILLINGS?
BATMAN?
SOMETHING'S BEEN TAKEN FROM HERE RECENTLY. THE BREAK'S FRESH, NOT AGED OR OXIDIZED.
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME...?

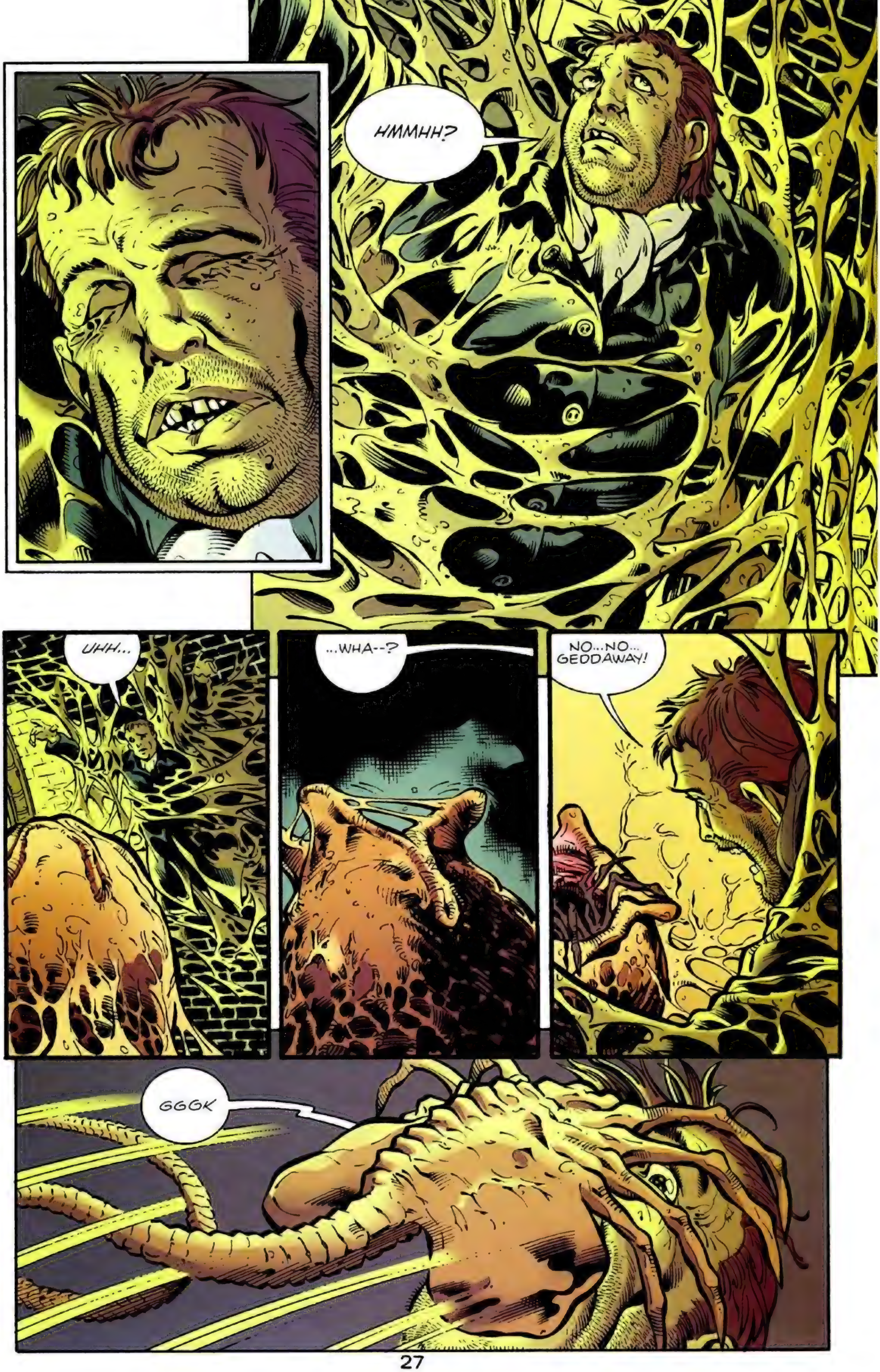

COMMISSIONER?
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

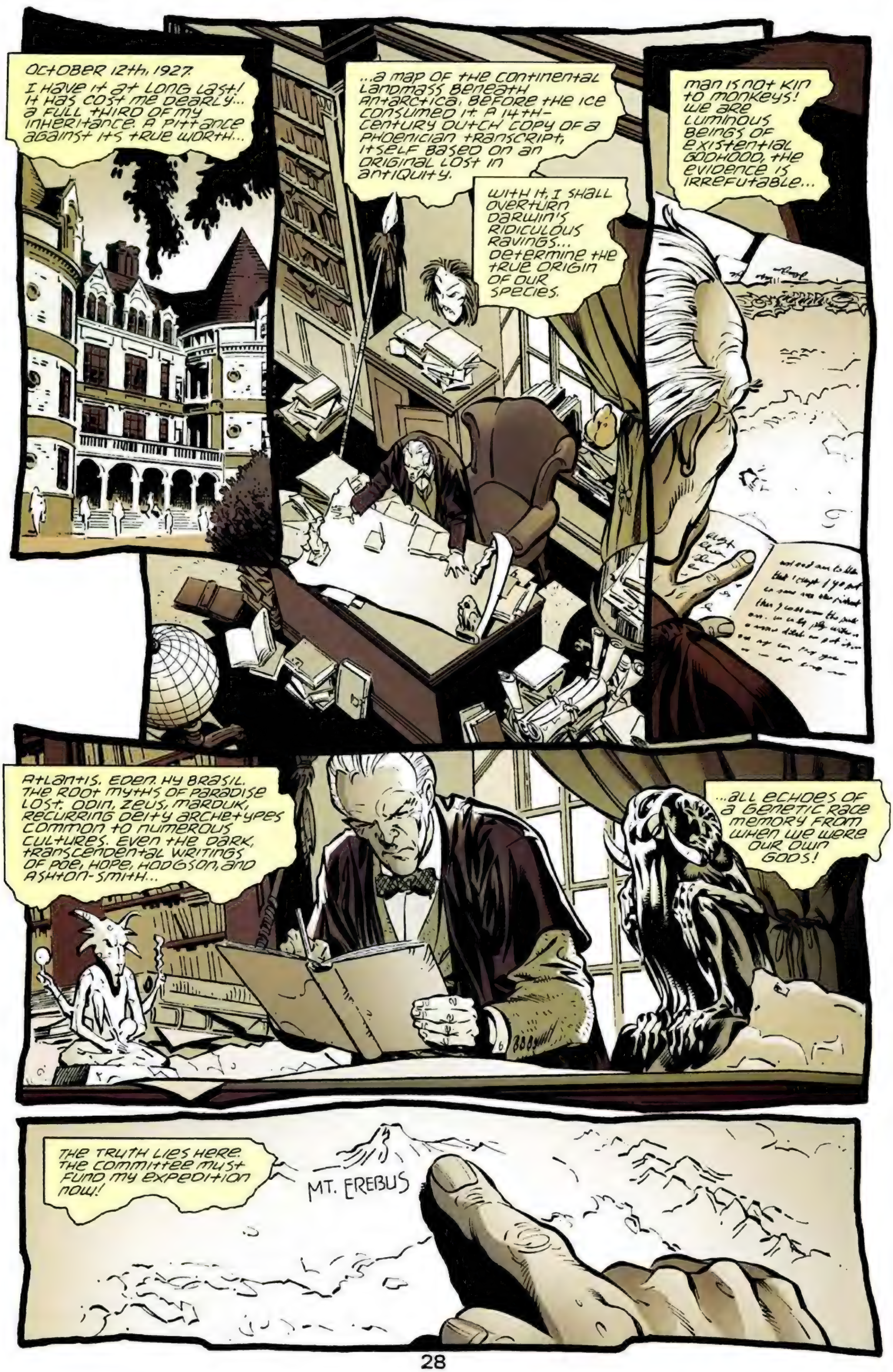

BUT YOU CLEARLY HAVE?
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
YOU'D BETTER.

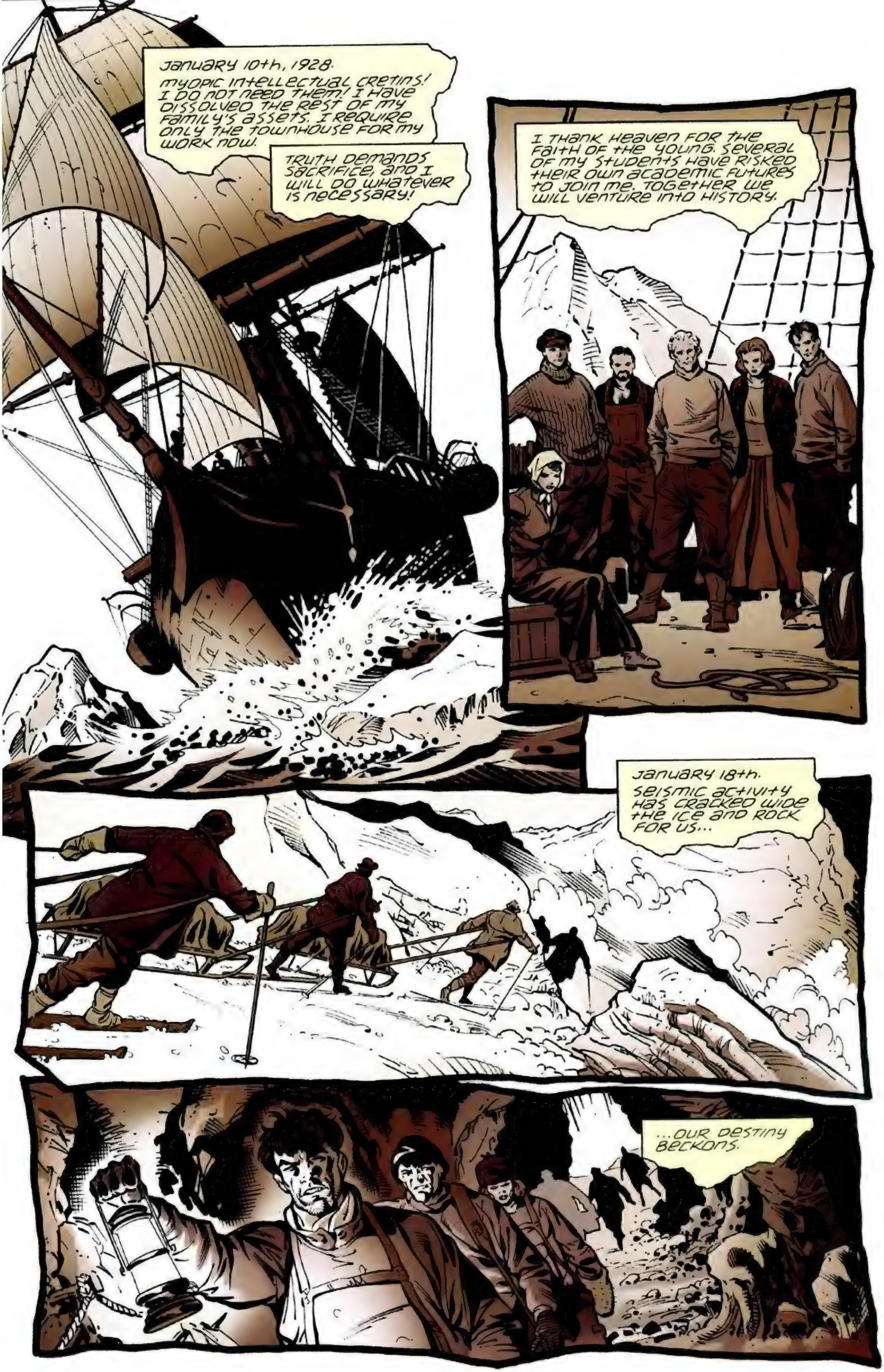

I DON'T LIKE HOLDING OUT ON GORDON, BUT I CAN'T BRING HIM UP TO SPEED ON THIS UNTIL I'M CERTAIN.
WE ALL HAVE OUR SECRETS, SOME MORE THAN OTHERS, BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IGNORANCE IS BLISS...
IN GOD WE TRUST
LIBERTY
...BECAUSE THE TRUTH HOLDS GREATER TERRORS.
THE GAPING CHEST WOUND --THAT MONSTROUS COCOON. I HAVE SEEN THEM BEFORE--

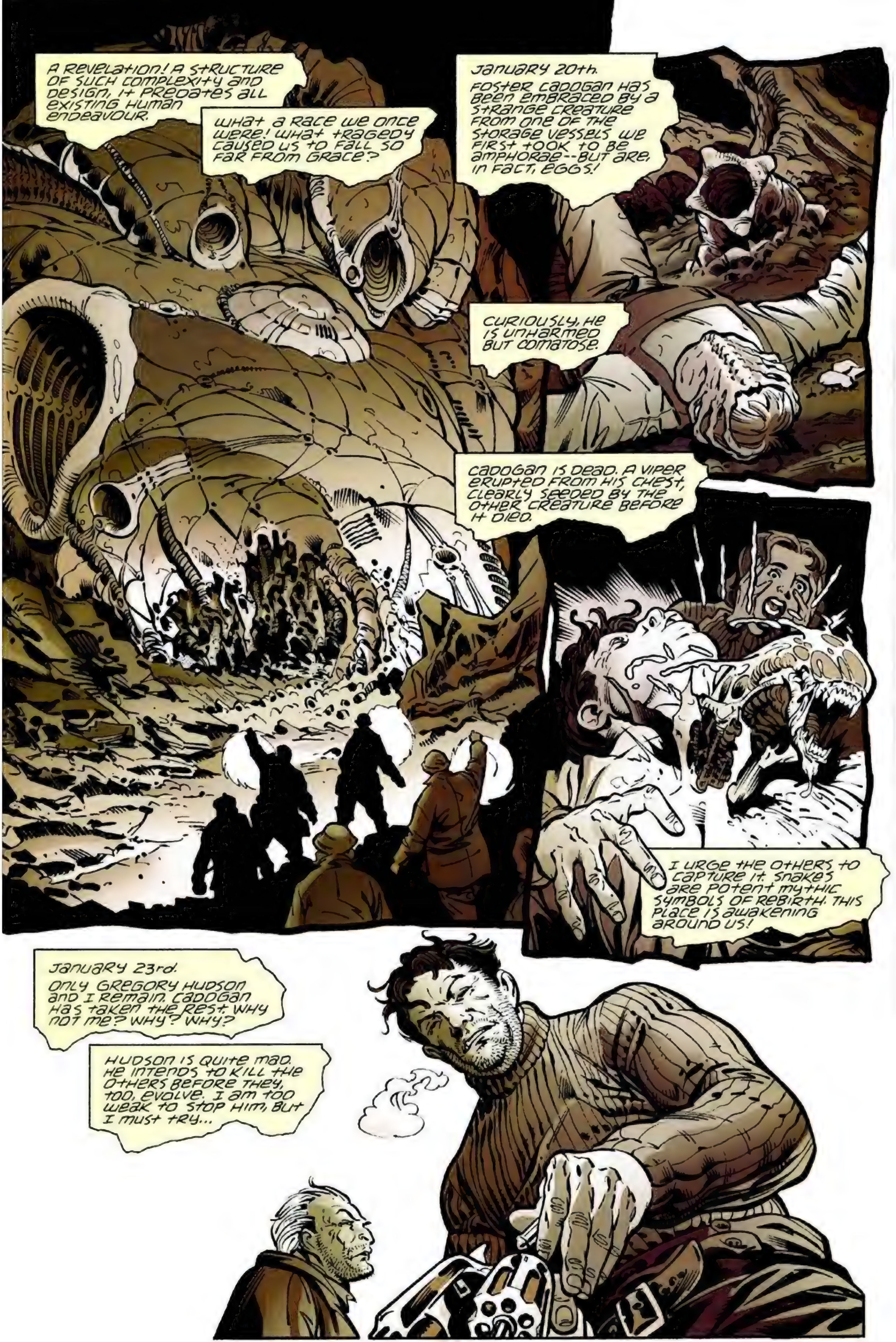

--SEVERAL YEARS AGO, IN SOUTH AMERICA.
IT WAS LIKE THE PLOT OF A SCIENCE-FICTION FILM. THE MISSING SCIENTIST...A CRASHED ALIEN SPACE-CRAFT.
A LOST ANCIENT TEMPLE... A BAND OF MERCENARIES WITH A HIDDEN AGENDA.

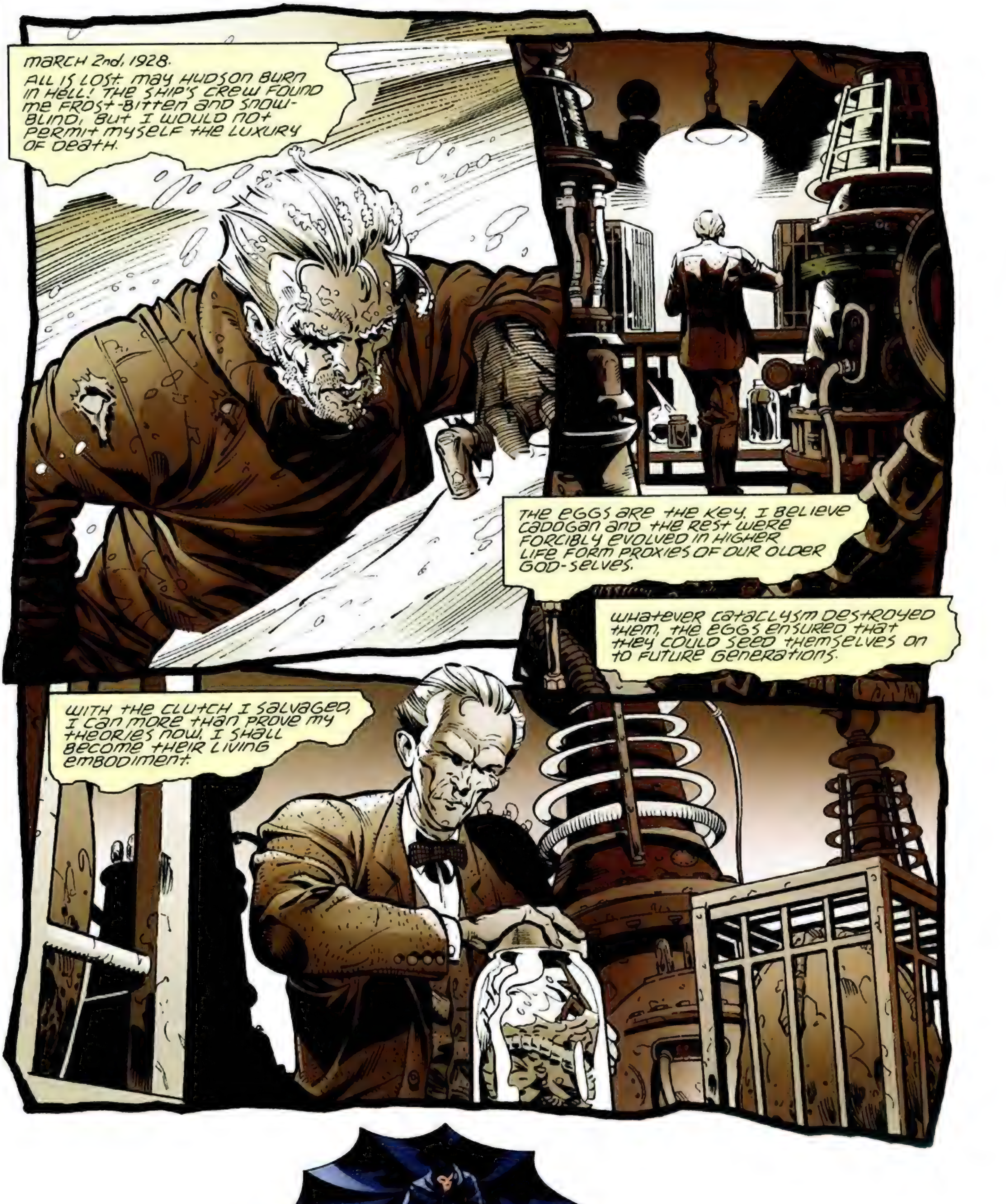

AND A HOST OF ALIEN CREATURES WHOSE SOLE BIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE WAS TO KILL AND REPRODUCE.
ONLY I SURVIVED.
I DESTROYED THE ALIENS. I HAD NO CHOICE. I COULDN'T LET THEM REACH CIVILIZATION...
OR LET CIVILIZATION DISCOVER THEM.
SOMEONE, SOMEHOW, WOULD'VE TRIED TO EXPLOIT THEIR LETHAL BIOLOGY.
EXCEPT IT NOW LOOKS LIKE I'M SEVENTY YEARS TOO LATE.

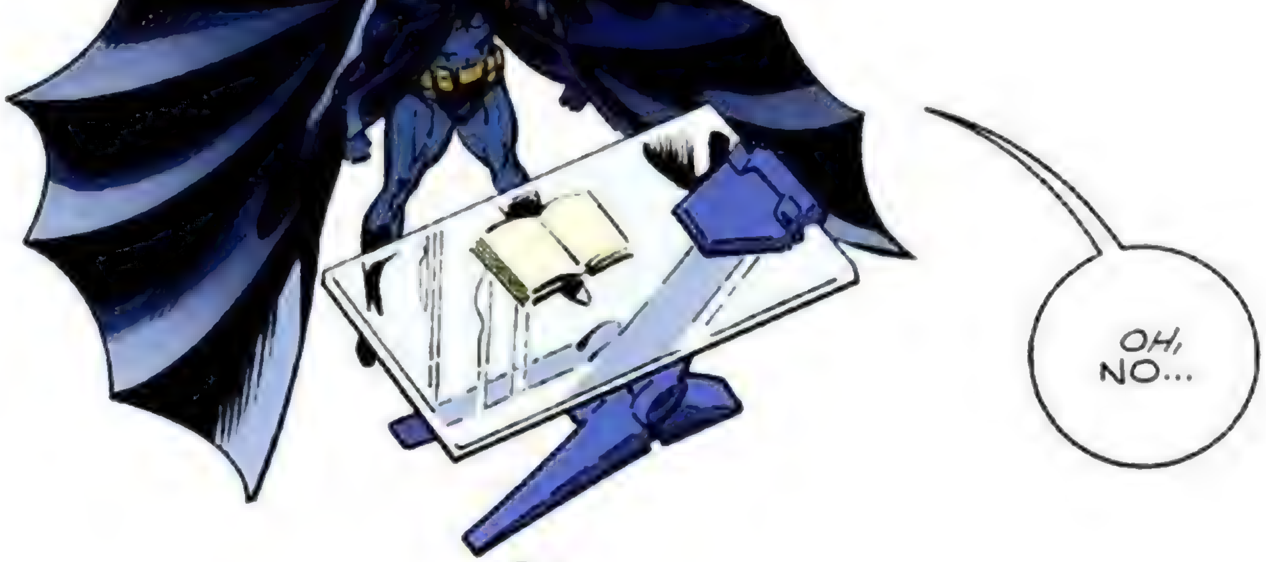

HMMHH?
UHH...
...WHA--?
NO...NO... GEDDAWAY!
GGGK

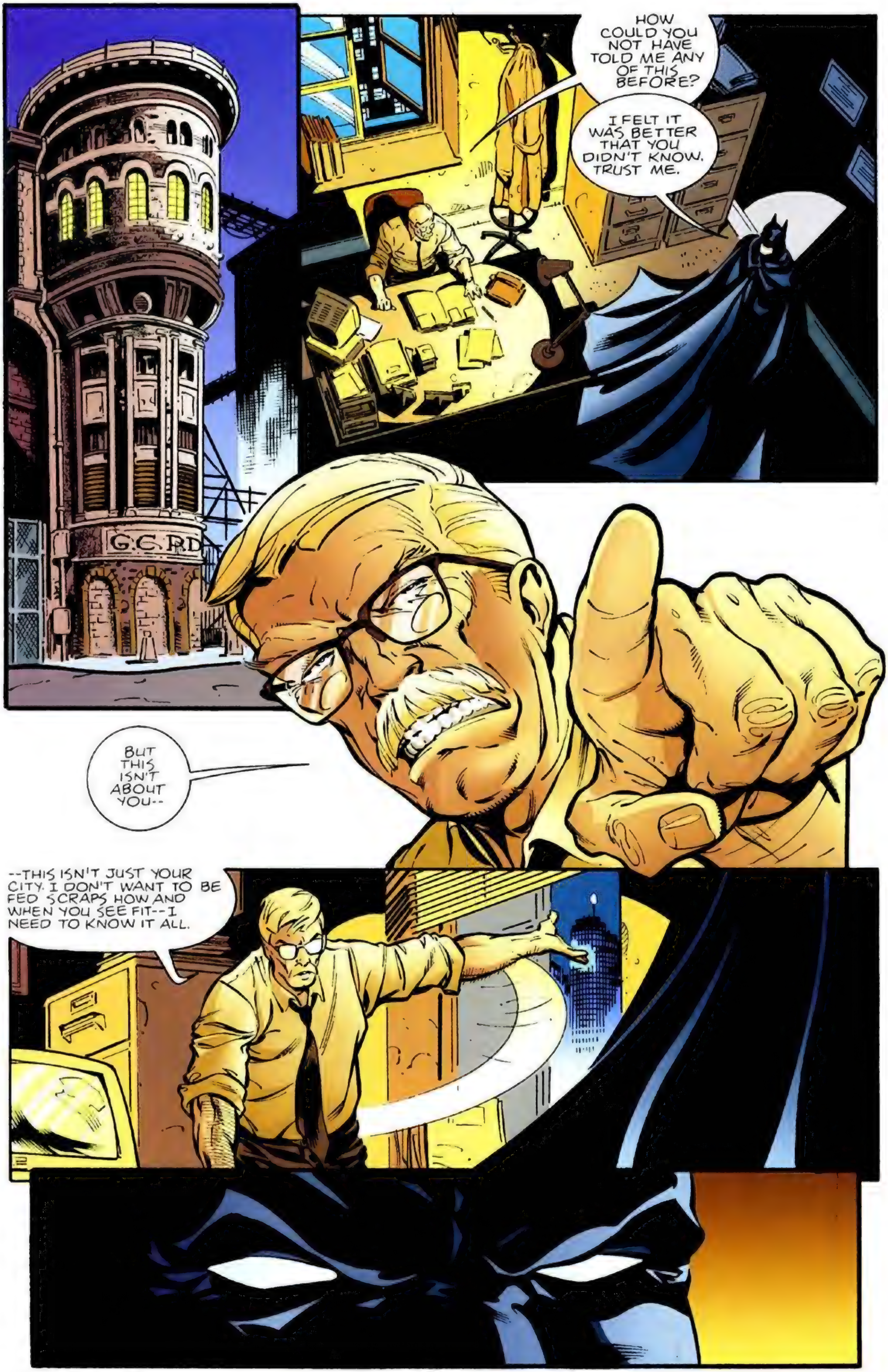

OCTOBER 12th, 1927.
I HAVE IT AT LONG LAST! IT HAS COST ME DEARLY... A FULL THIRD OF MY INHERITANCE. A PITTANCE AGAINST ITS TRUE WORTH...
...A MAP OF THE CONTINENTAL LANDMASS BENEATH ANTARCTICA, BEFORE THE ICE CONSUMED IT. A 14TH-CENTURY DUTCH COPY OF A PHOENICIAN TRANSCRIPT, ITSELF BASED ON AN ORIGINAL LOST IN ANTIQUITY.
WITH IT, I SHALL OVERTURN DARWIN'S RIDICULOUS RAVINGS... DETERMINE THE TRUE ORIGIN OF OUR SPECIES.
MAN IS NOT KIN TO MONKEYS! WE ARE LUMINOUS BEINGS OF EXISTENTIAL GODHOOD, THE EVIDENCE IS IRREFUTABLE...
ATLANTIS. EDEN. HY BRASIL. THE ROOT MYTHS OF PARADISE LOST. ODIN, ZEUS, MARDUK, RECURRING DEITY ARCHETYPES COMMON TO NUMEROUS CULTURES. EVEN THE DARK, TRANSCENDENTAL WRITINGS OF POE, HOPE, HODGSON, AND ASHTON-SMITH...
...ALL ECHOES OF A GENETIC RACE MEMORY FROM WHEN WE WERE OUR OWN GODS!
THE TRUTH LIES HERE. THE COMMITTEE MUST FUND MY EXPEDITION NOW!
MT. EREBUS

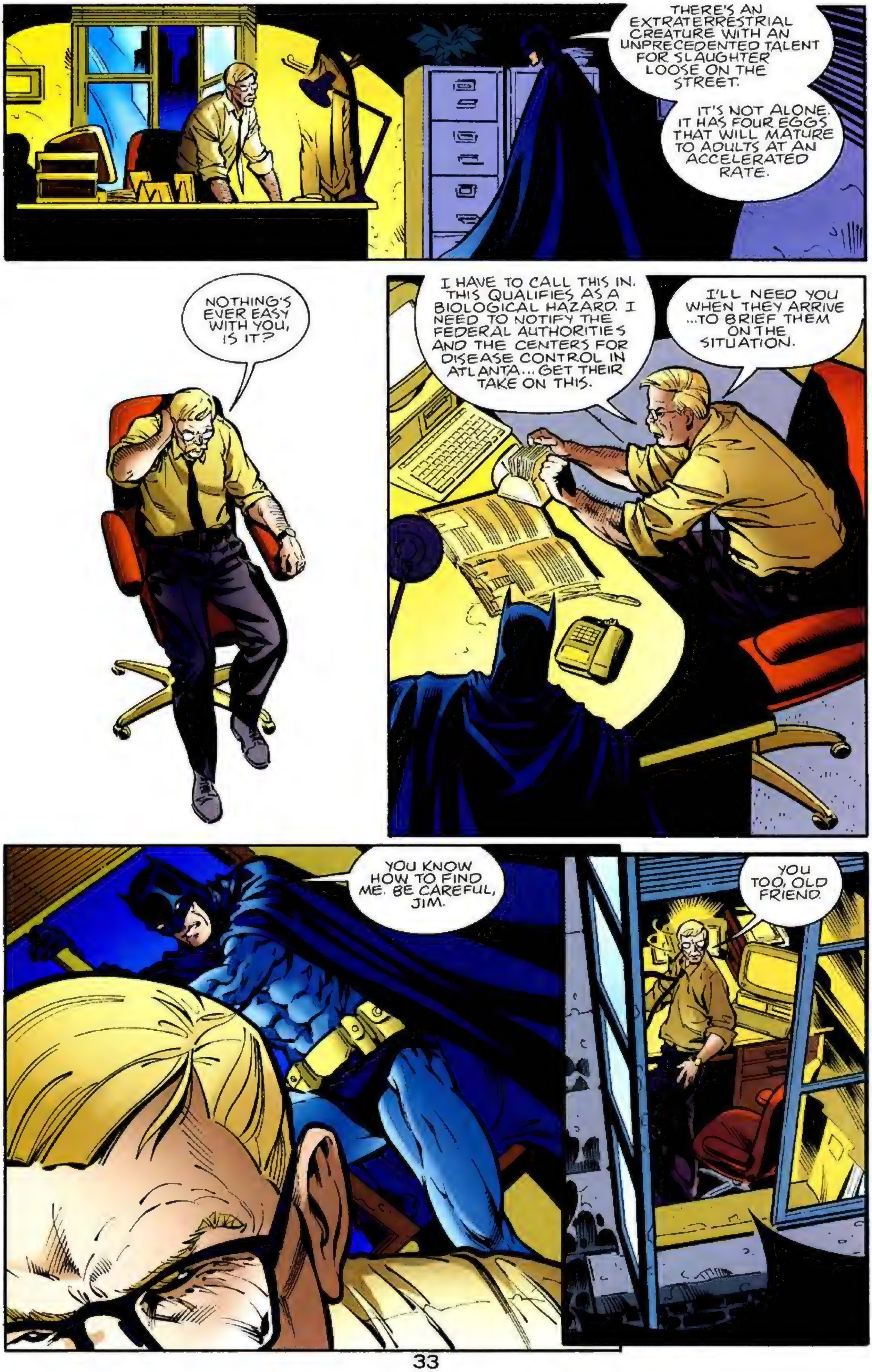

JANUARY 10th, 1928. MYOPIC INTELLECTUAL CRETINS! I DO NOT NEED THEM! I HAVE DISSOLVED THE REST OF MY FAMILY'S ASSETS. I REQUIRE ONLY THE TOWNHOUSE FOR MY WORK NOW.
TRUTH DEMANDS SACRIFICE, AND I WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY!
I THANK HEAVEN FOR THE FAITH OF THE YOUNG. SEVERAL OF MY STUDENTS HAVE RISKED THEIR OWN ACADEMIC FUTURES TO JOIN ME. TOGETHER WE WILL VENTURE INTO HISTORY.
JANUARY 18th. SEISMIC ACTIVITY HAS CRACKED WIDE THE ICE AND ROCK FOR US...
...OUR DESTINY BECKONS.

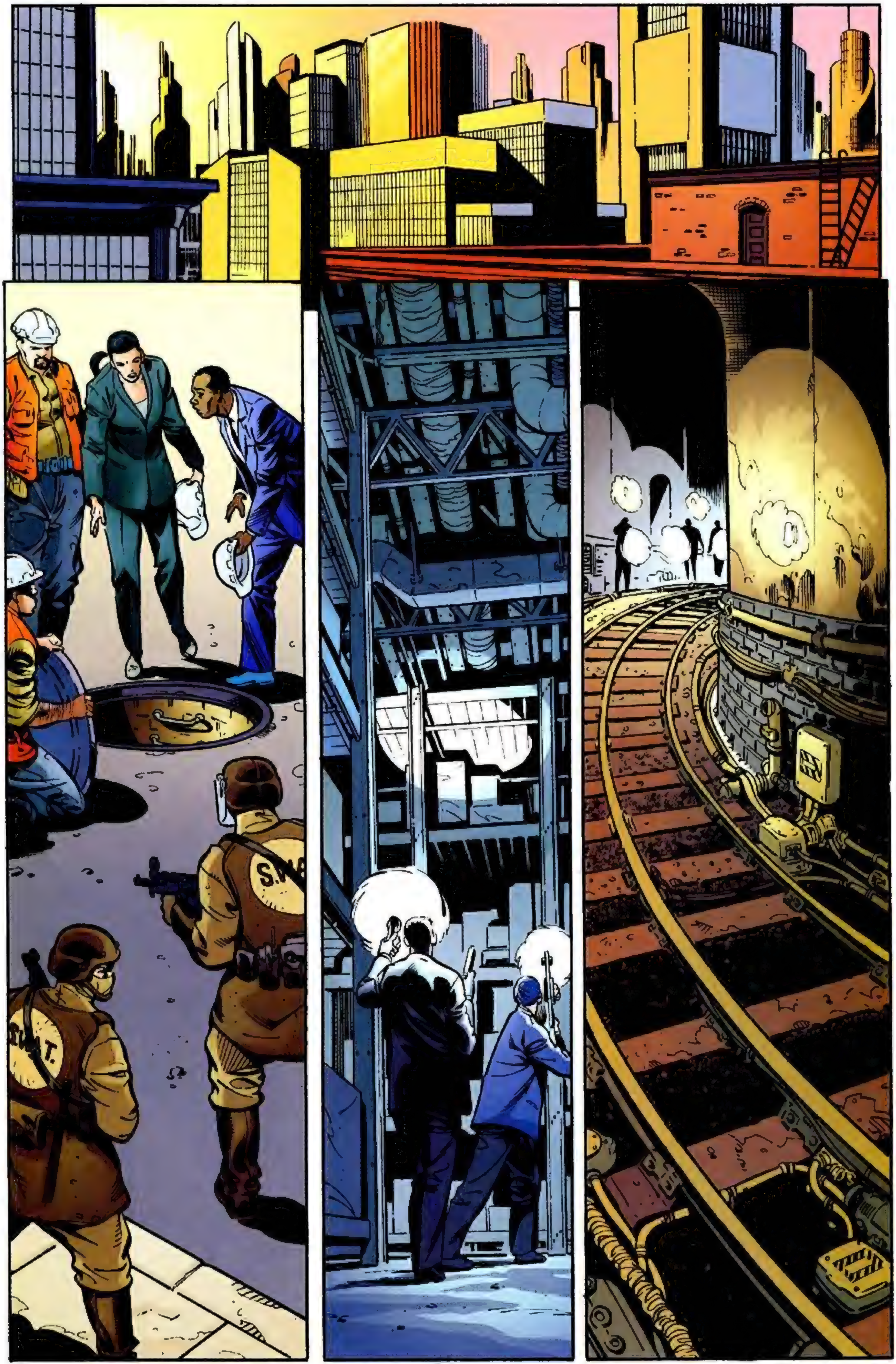

A REVELATION! A STRUCTURE OF SUCH COMPLEXITY AND DESIGN, IT PREDATES ALL EXISTING HUMAN ENDEAVOUR.
WHAT A RACE WE ONCE WERE! WHAT TRAGEDY CAUSED US TO FALL SO FAR FROM GRACE?
JANUARY 20th.
FOSTER CADOGAN HAS BEEN EMBRACED BY A STRANGE CREATURE FROM ONE OF THE STORAGE VESSELS WE FIRST TOOK TO BE AMPHORAE--BUT ARE, IN FACT, EGGS!
CURIOUSLY, HE IS UNHARMED BUT COMATOSE.
CADOGAN IS DEAD. A VIPER ERUPTED FROM HIS CHEST, CLEARLY SEEDED BY THE OTHER CREATURE BEFORE IT DIED.
I URGE THE OTHERS TO CAPTURE IT. SNAKES ARE POTENT MYTHIC SYMBOLS OF REBIRTH. THIS PLACE IS AWAKENING AROUND US!
JANUARY 23rd.
ONLY GREGORY HUDSON AND I REMAIN. CADOGAN HAS TAKEN THE REST. WHY NOT ME? WHY? WHY?
HUDSON IS QUITE MAD. HE INTENDS TO KILL THE OTHERS BEFORE THEY, TOO, EVOLVE. I AM TOO WEAK TO STOP HIM, BUT I MUST TRY...

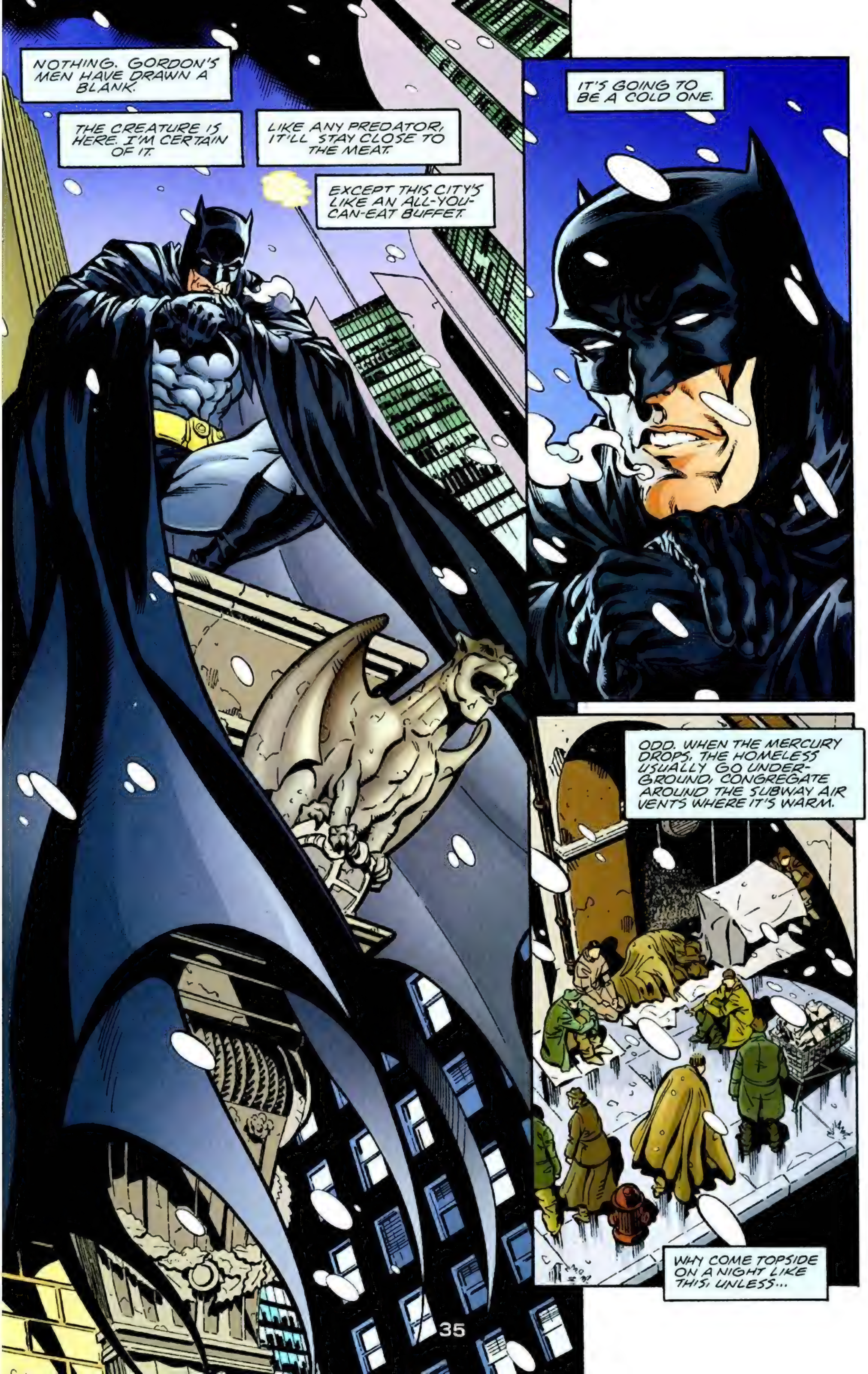

MARCH 2nd, 1928.
ALL IS LOST. MAY HUDSON BURN IN HELL! THE SHIP'S CREW FOUND ME FROST-BITTEN AND SNOW-BLIND, BUT I WOULD NOT PERMIT MYSELF THE LUXURY OF DEATH.
THE EGGS ARE THE KEY. I BELIEVE CADOGAN AND THE REST WERE FORCIBLY EVOLVED IN HIGHER LIFE FORM PROXIES OF OUR OLDER GOD-SELVES.
WHATEVER CATACLYSM DESTROYED THEM, THE EGGS ENSURED THAT THEY COULD SEED THEMSELVES ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.
WITH THE CLUTCH I SALVAGED, I CAN MORE THAN PROVE MY THEORIES NOW. I SHALL BECOME THEIR LIVING EMBODIMENT.

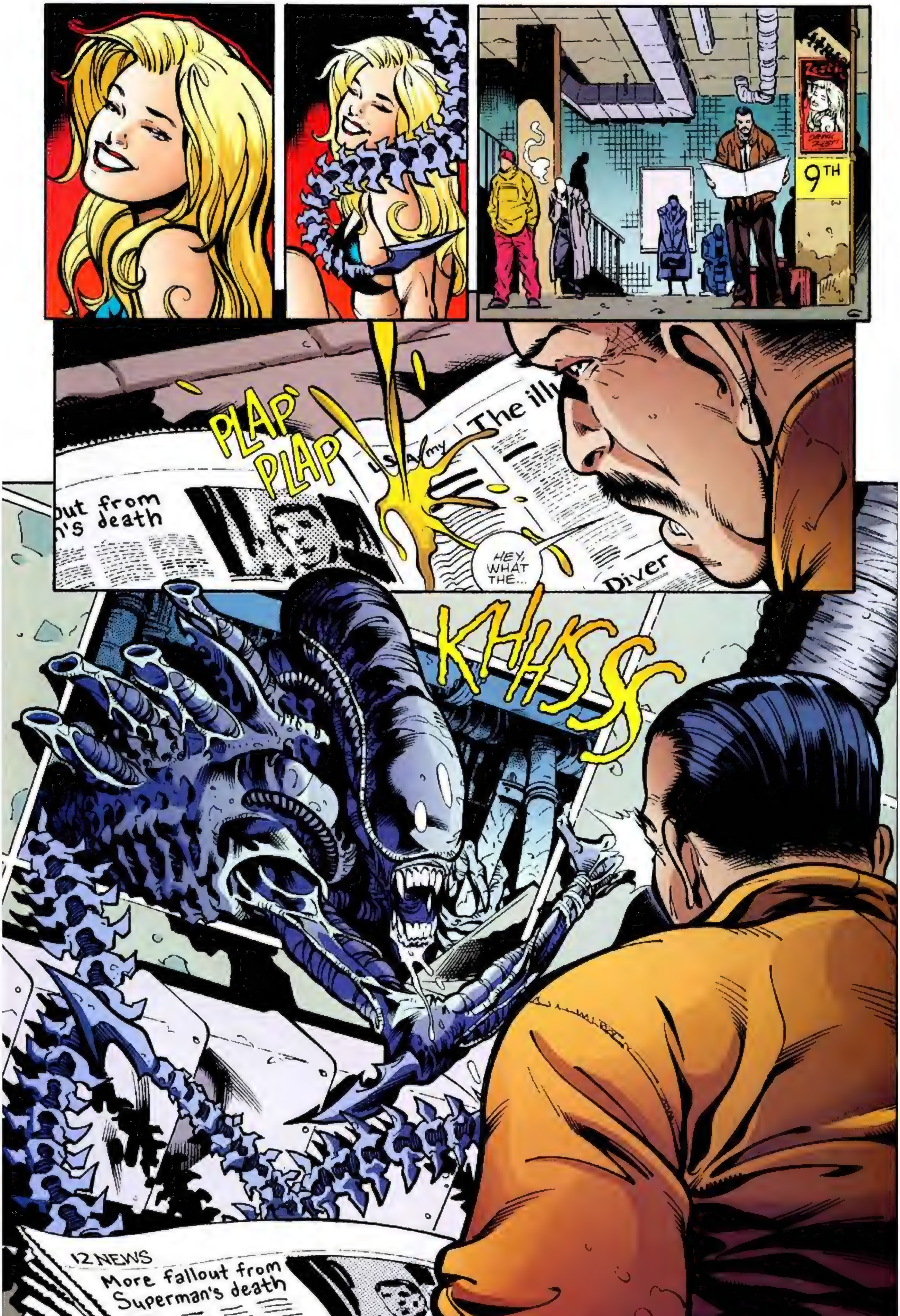

OH, NO...

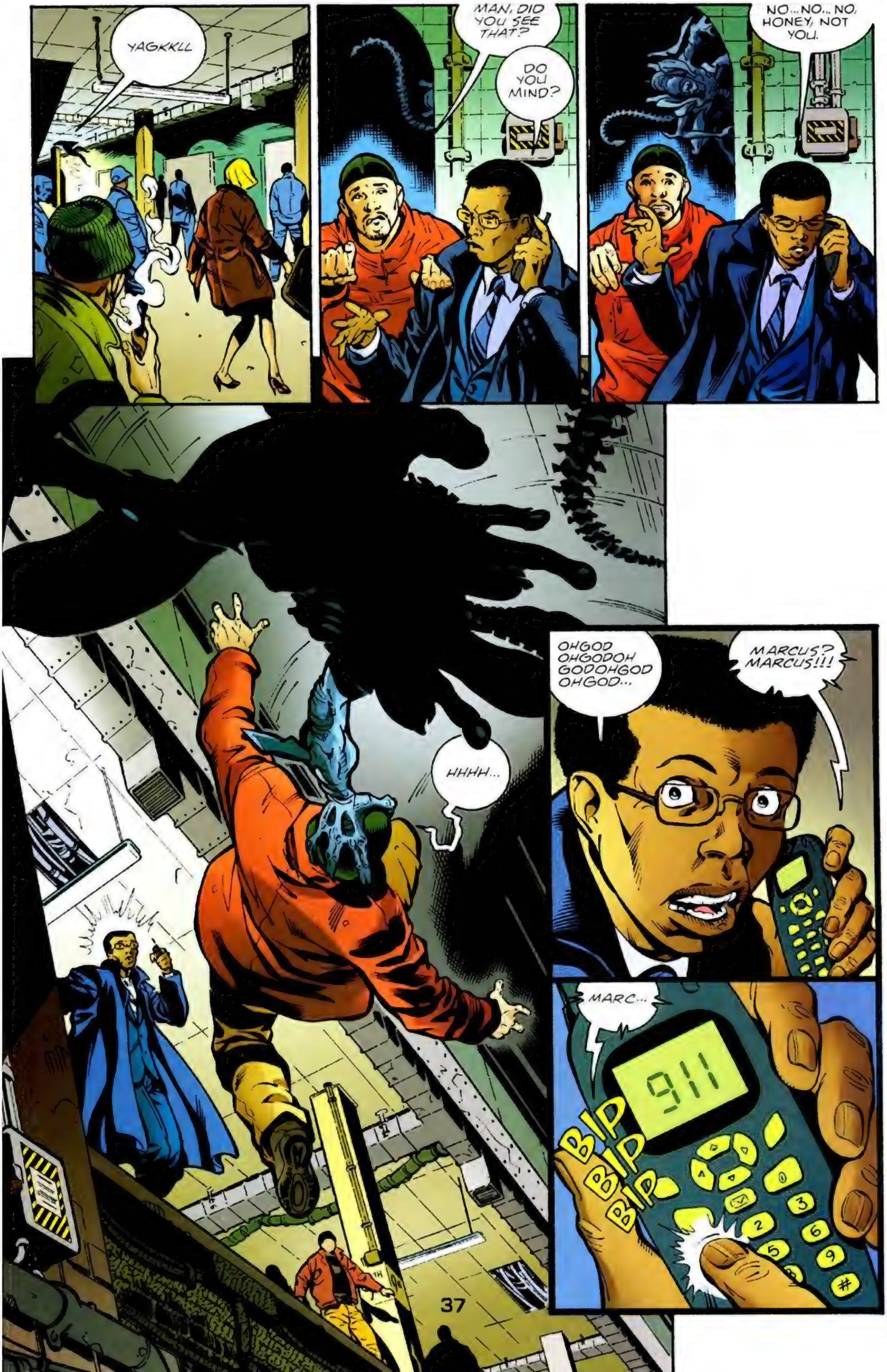

G.C.P.D
HOW COULD YOU NOT HAVE TOLD ME ANY OF THIS BEFORE?
I FELT IT WAS BETTER THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW. TRUST ME.
BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU--
--THIS ISN'T JUST YOUR CITY. I DON'T WANT TO BE FED SCRAPS HOW AND WHEN YOU SEE FIT--I NEED TO KNOW IT ALL.

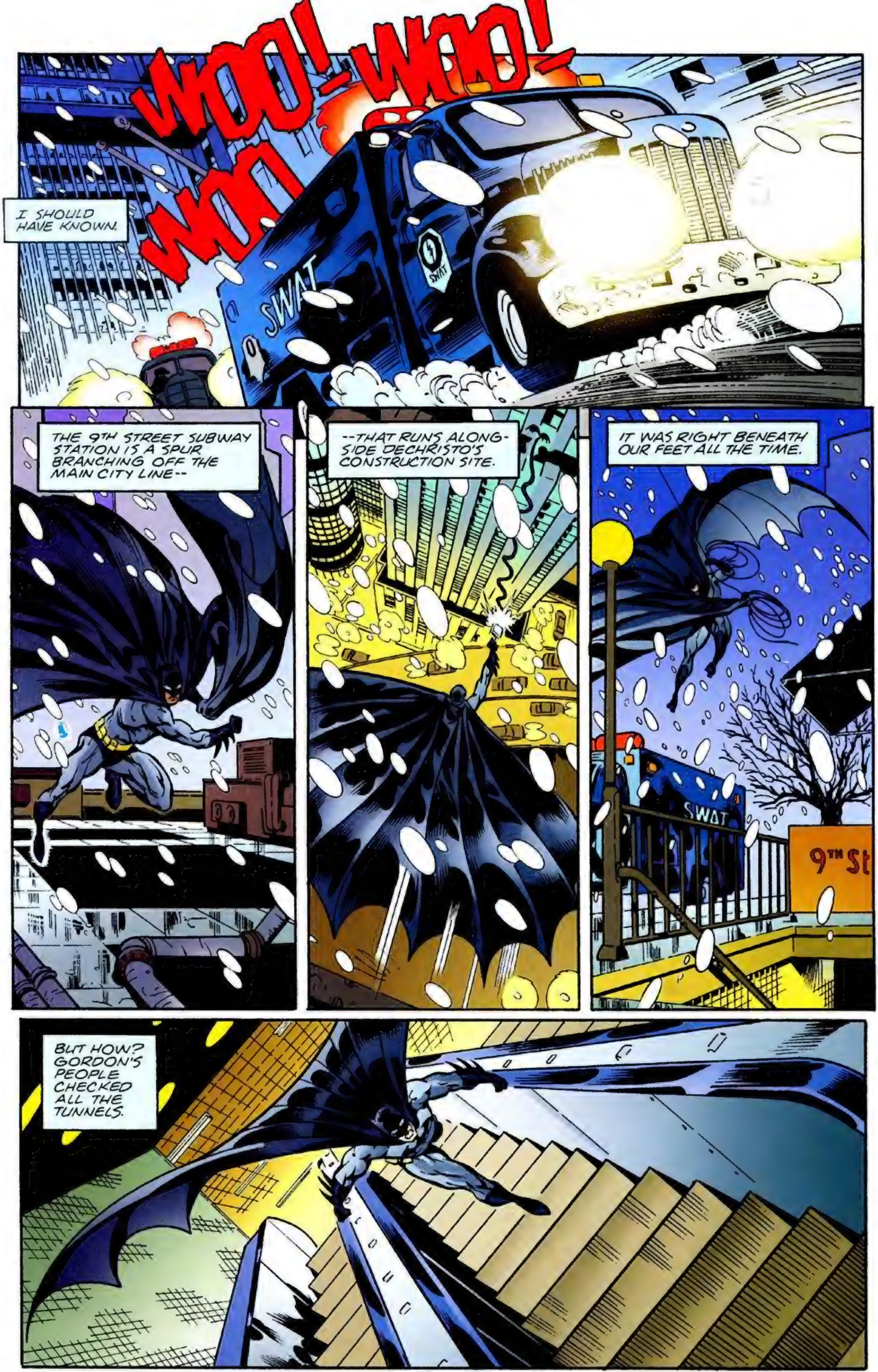

THERE'S AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL CREATURE WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED TALENT FOR SLAUGHTER LOOSE ON THE STREET.
IT'S NOT ALONE. IT HAS FOUR EGGS THAT WILL MATURE TO ADULTS AT AN ACCELERATED RATE.
NOTHING'S EVER EASY WITH YOU, IS IT?
I HAVE TO CALL THIS IN. THIS QUALIFIES AS A BIOLOGICAL HAZARD. I NEED TO NOTIFY THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AND THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN ATLANTA... GET THEIR TAKE ON THIS.
I'LL NEED YOU WHEN THEY ARRIVE ...TO BRIEF THEM ON THE SITUATION.
YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND ME. BE CAREFUL, JIM.
YOU TOO, OLD FRIEND.

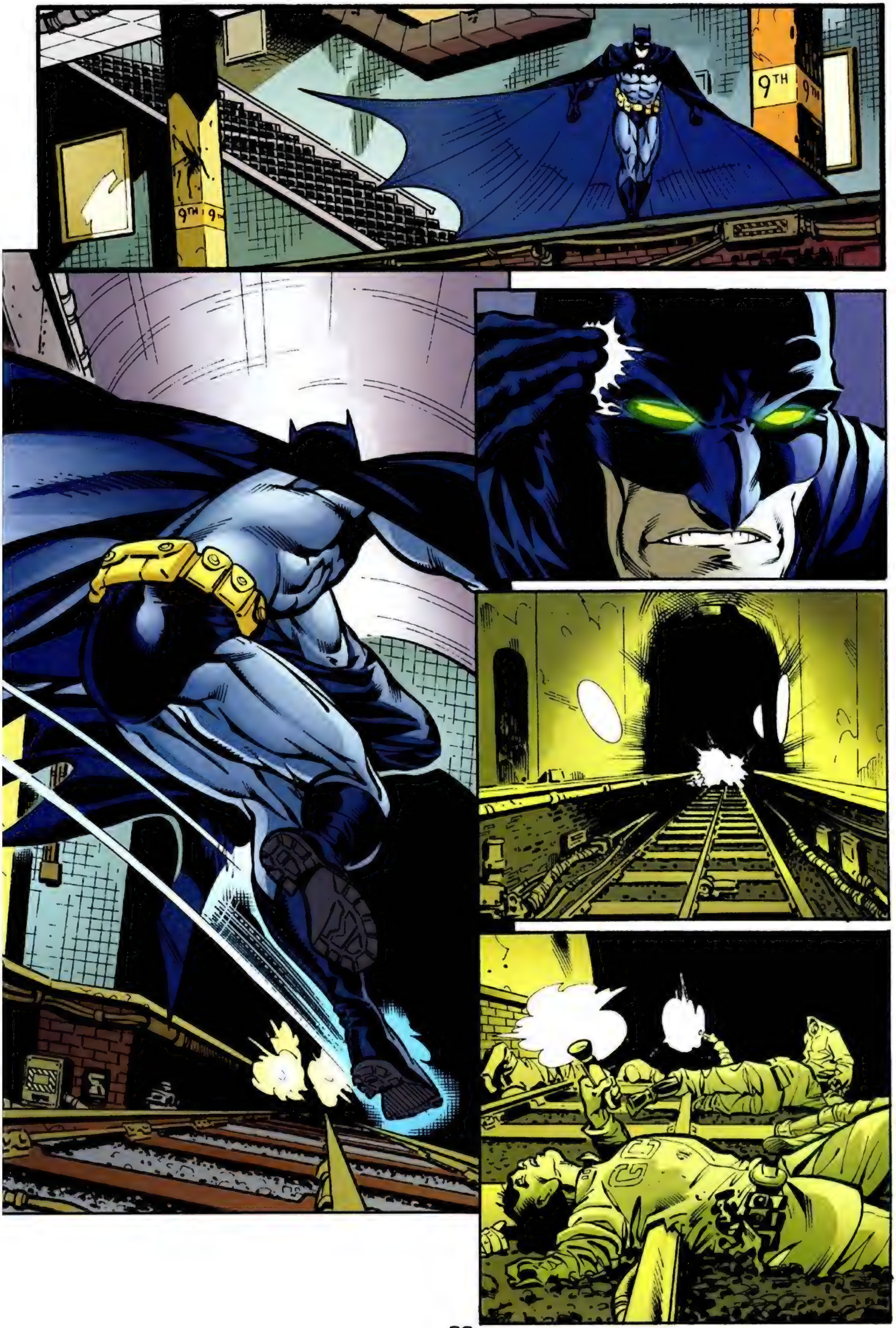

S.W.A.T.

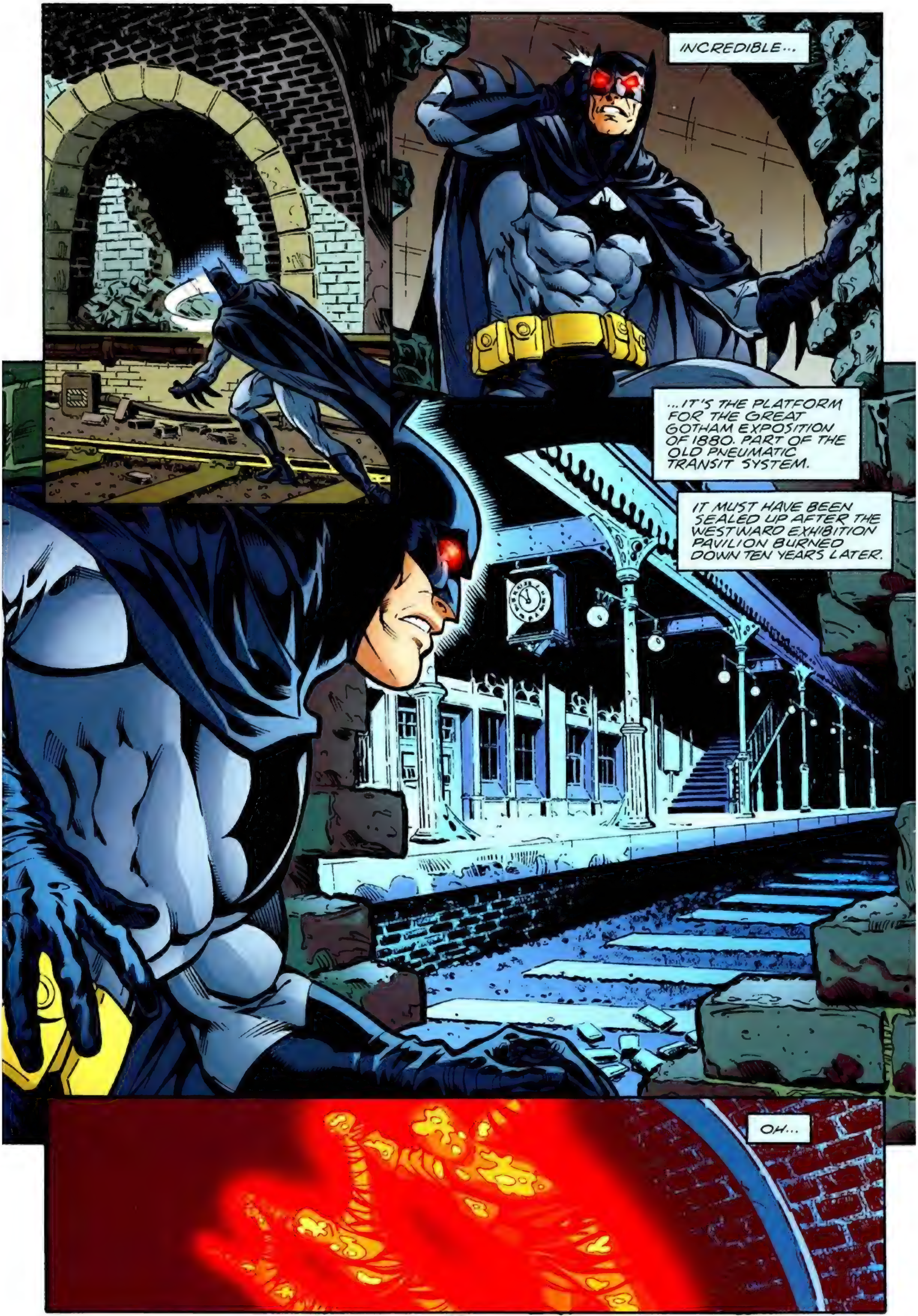

NOTHING. GORDON'S MEN HAVE DRAWN A BLANK.
THE CREATURE IS HERE. I'M CERTAIN OF IT.
LIKE ANY PREDATOR, IT'LL STAY CLOSE TO THE MEAT.
EXCEPT THIS CITY'S LIKE AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET.
IT'S GOING TO BE A COLD ONE.
ODD. WHEN THE MERCURY DROPS, THE HOMELESS USUALLY GO UNDERGROUND, CONGREGATE AROUND THE SUBWAY AIR VENTS WHERE IT'S WARM.
WHY COME TOPSIDE ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS, UNLESS...

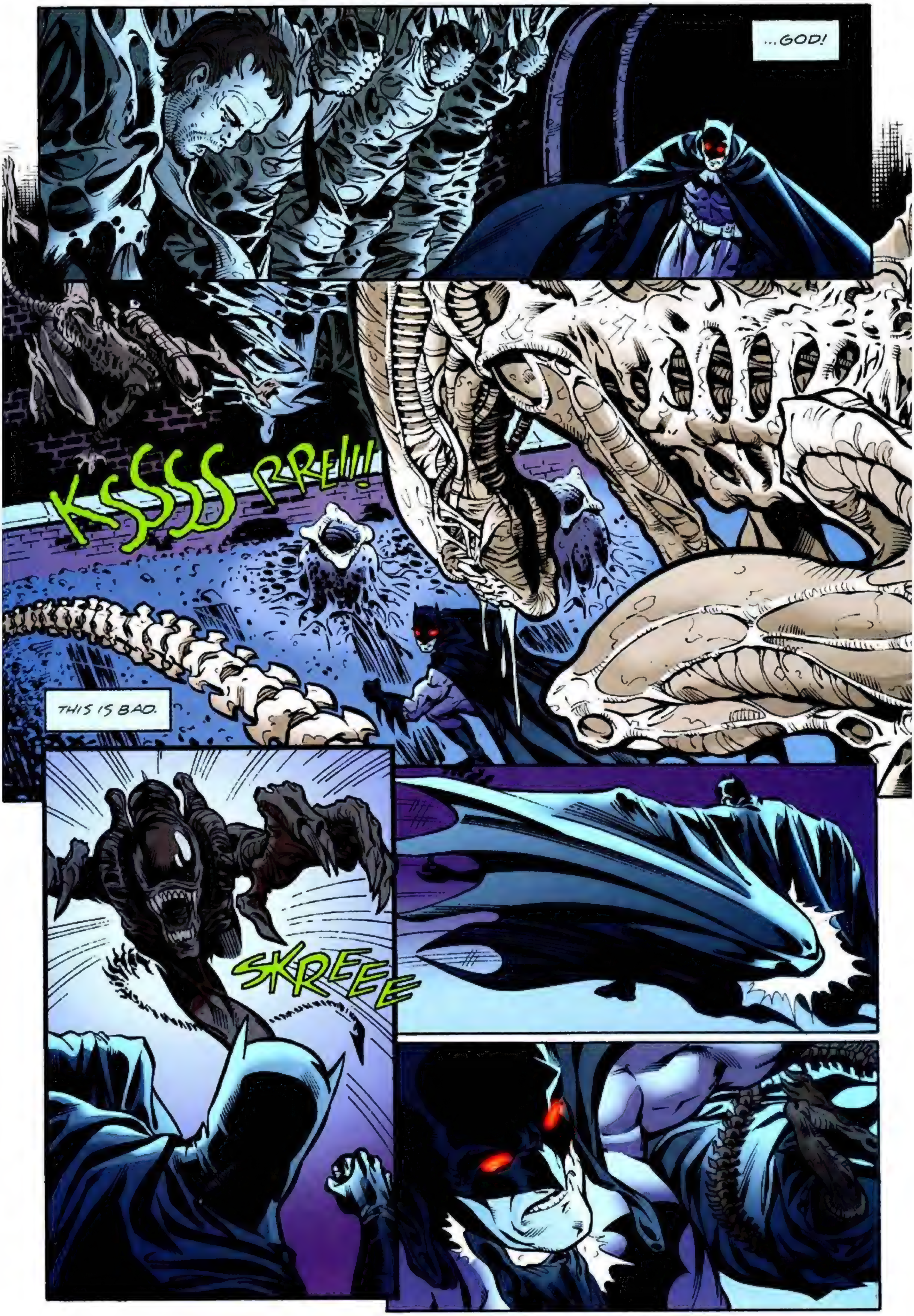

Zesti
DRINK ZESTI
9TH
PLAP PLAP
The illu
U.S. Army
out from
's death
Diver
HEY, WHAT THE...
KHISS
12 NEWS
More fallout from Superman's death

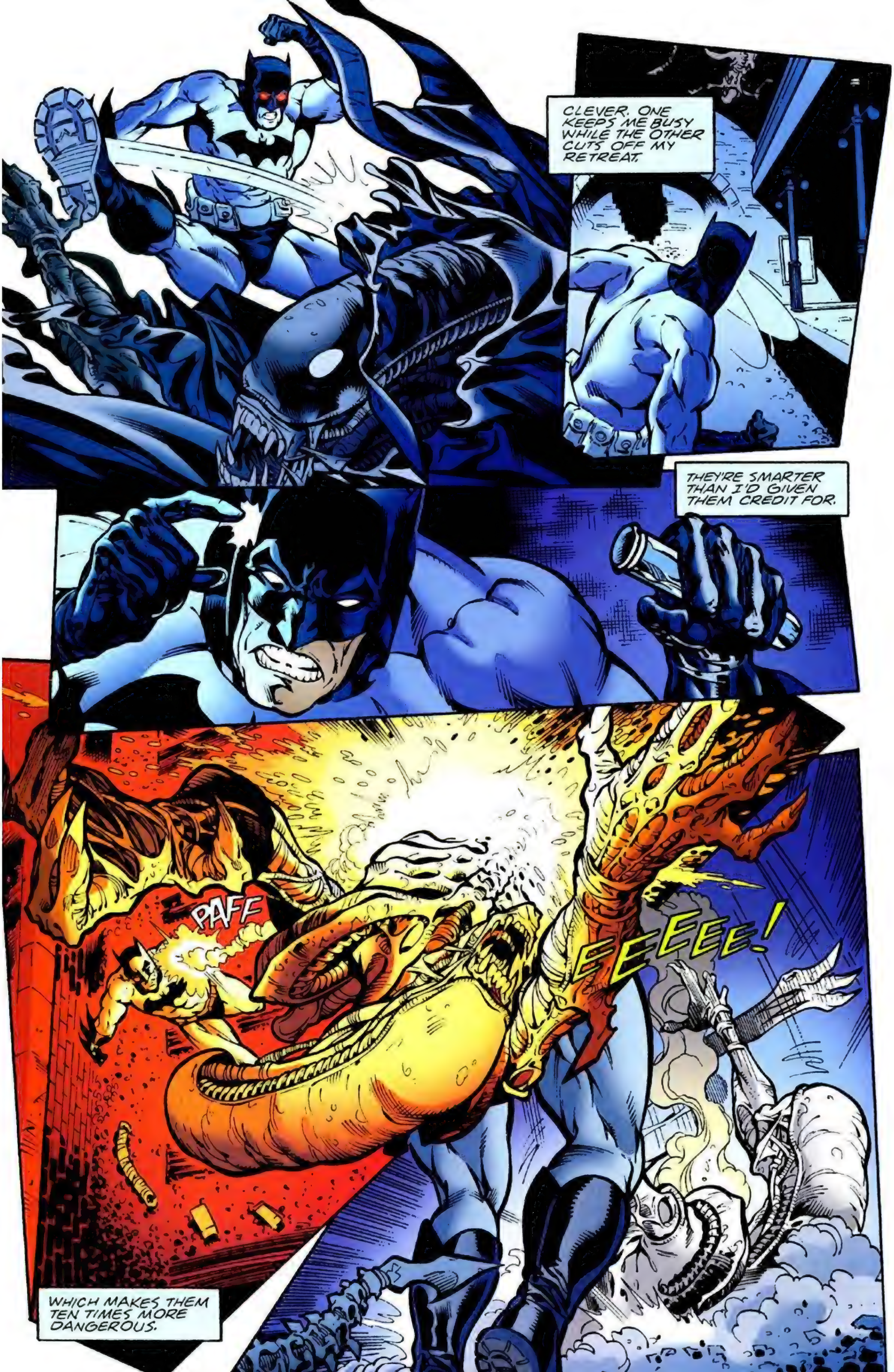

YAGKKLL
MAN, DID YOU SEE THAT?
DO YOU MIND?
NO... NO... NO, HONEY, NOT YOU.
HHHH...
OHGOD OHGODOH GODOHGOD OHGOD...
MARCUS? MARCUS!!!
MARC...
911
BIP BIP BIP

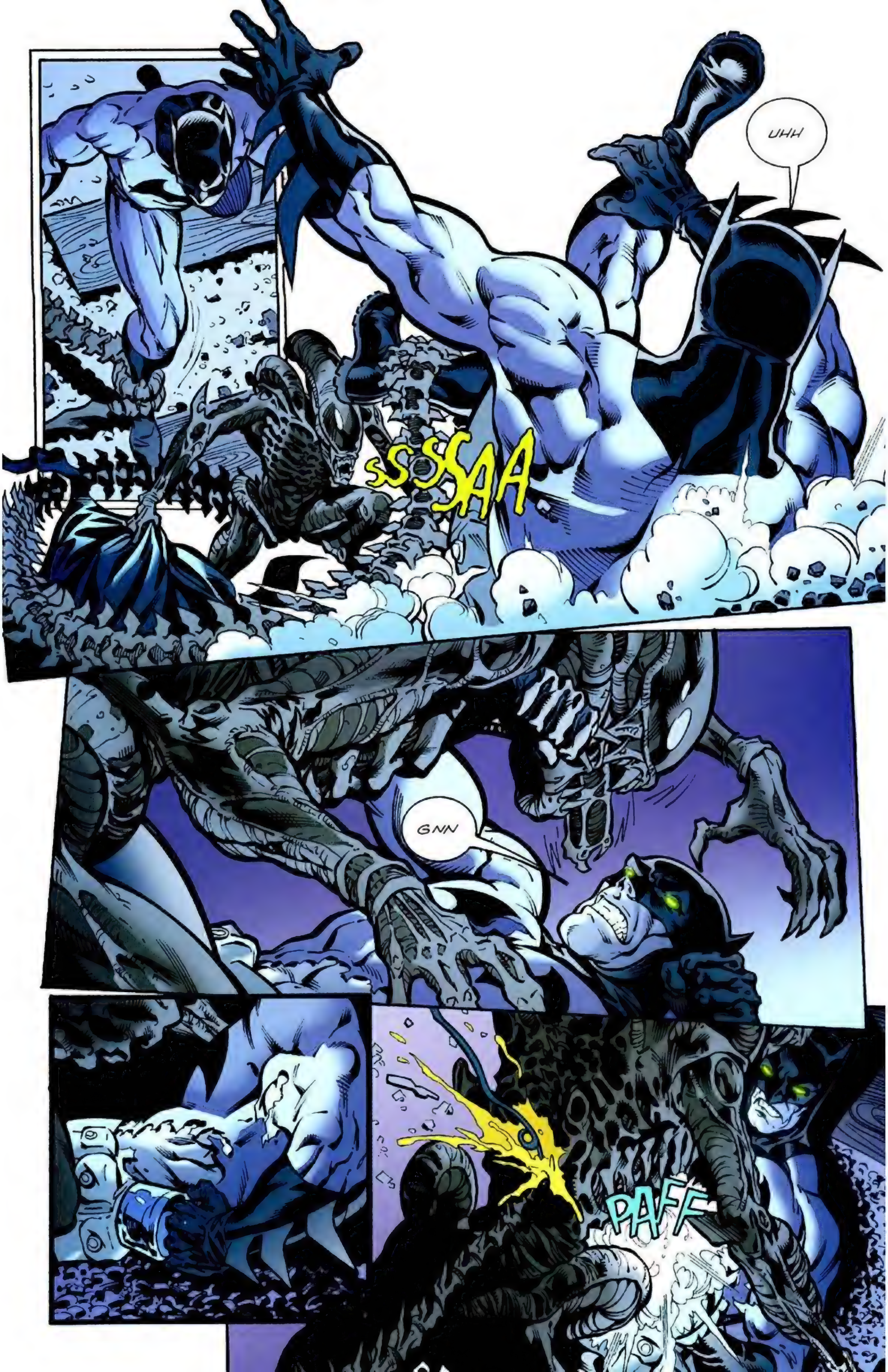

WOO!-WOO!-WOO
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
SWAT
SWAT
THE 9TH STREET SUBWAY STATION IS A SPUR BRANCHING OFF THE MAIN CITY LINE--
--THAT RUNS ALONGSIDE DECHRISTO'S CONSTRUCTION SITE.
IT WAS RIGHT BENEATH OUR FEET ALL THE TIME.
SWAT
9TH St
BUT HOW? GORDON'S PEOPLE CHECKED ALL THE TUNNELS.

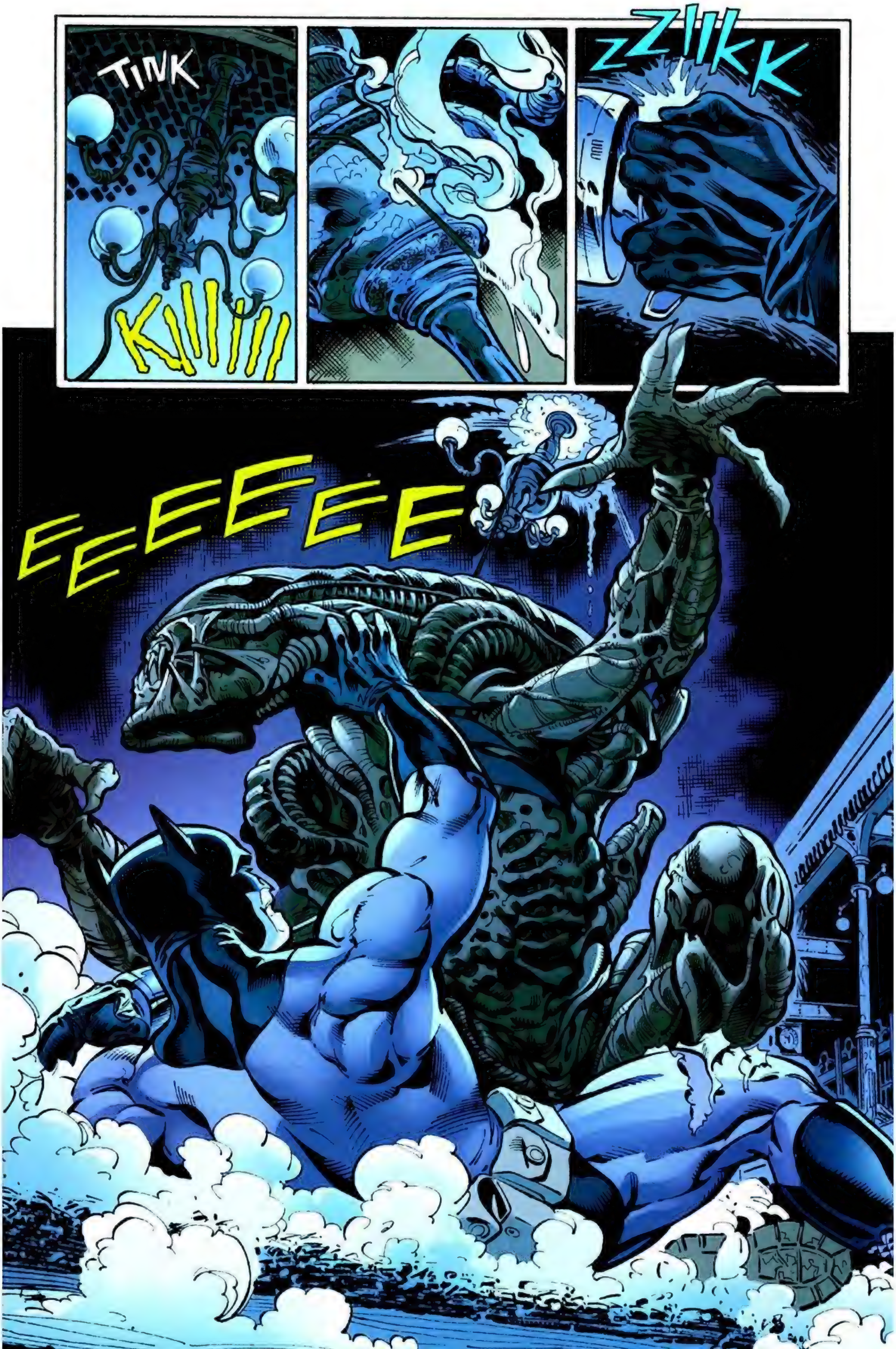

9TH
9TH
9TH
9TH

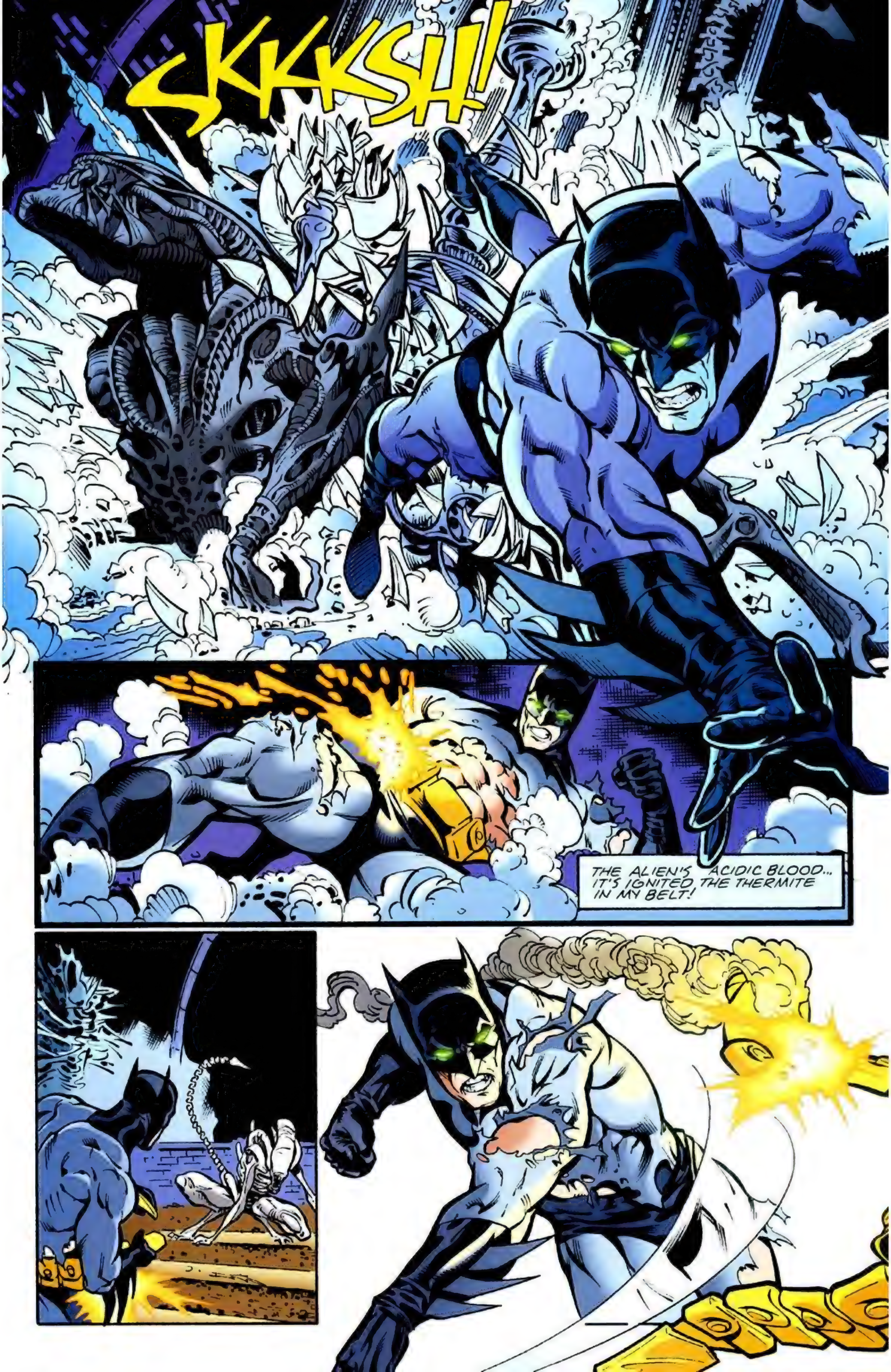

INCREDIBLE...
...IT'S THE PLATFORM FOR THE GREAT GOTHAM EXPOSITION OF 1880. PART OF THE OLD PNEUMATIC TRANSIT SYSTEM.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SEALED UP AFTER THE WESTWARD EXHIBITION PAVILION BURNED DOWN TEN YEARS LATER.
OH...

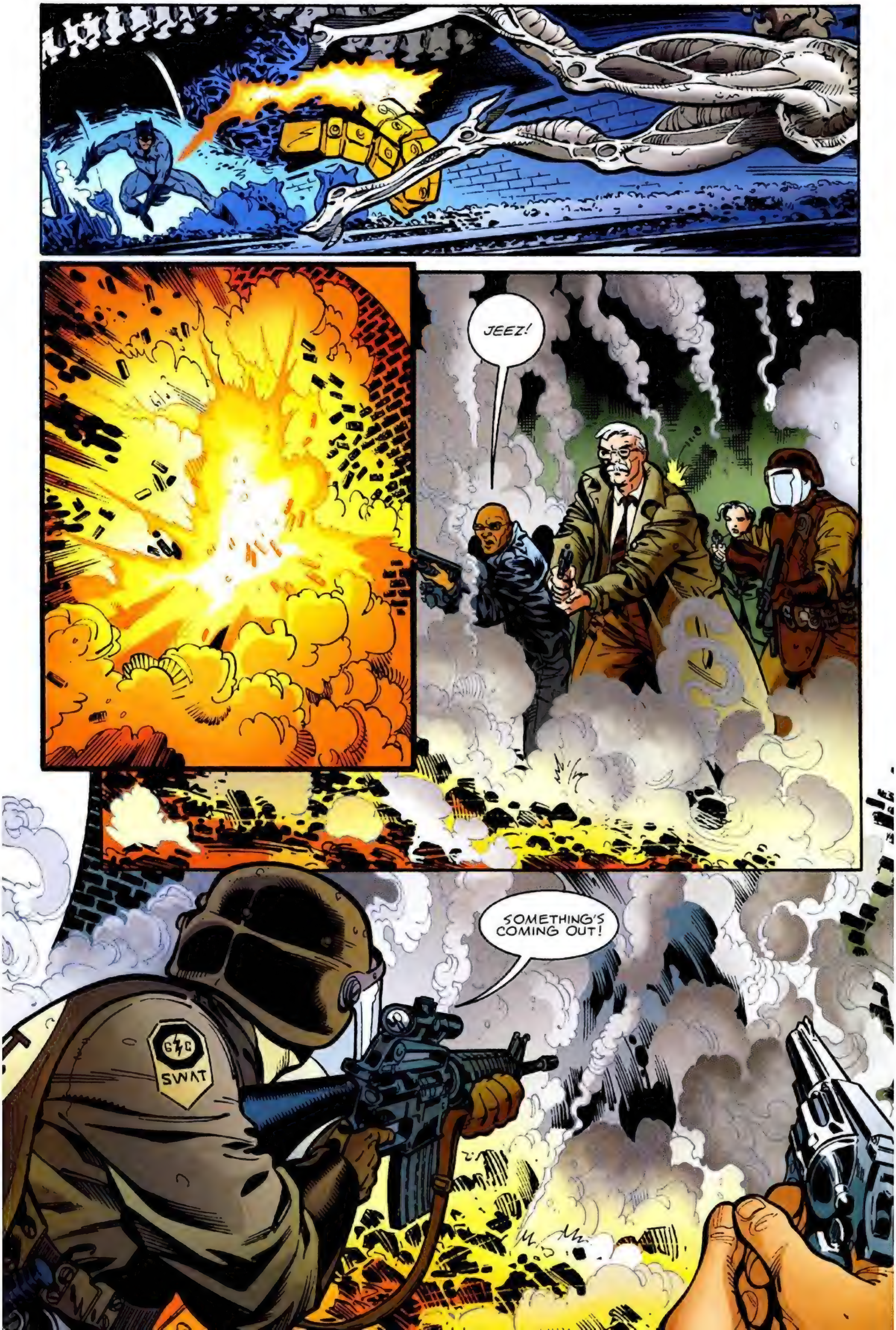

...GOD!
KSSSS RRE!!!!
THIS IS BAD.
SKREEE

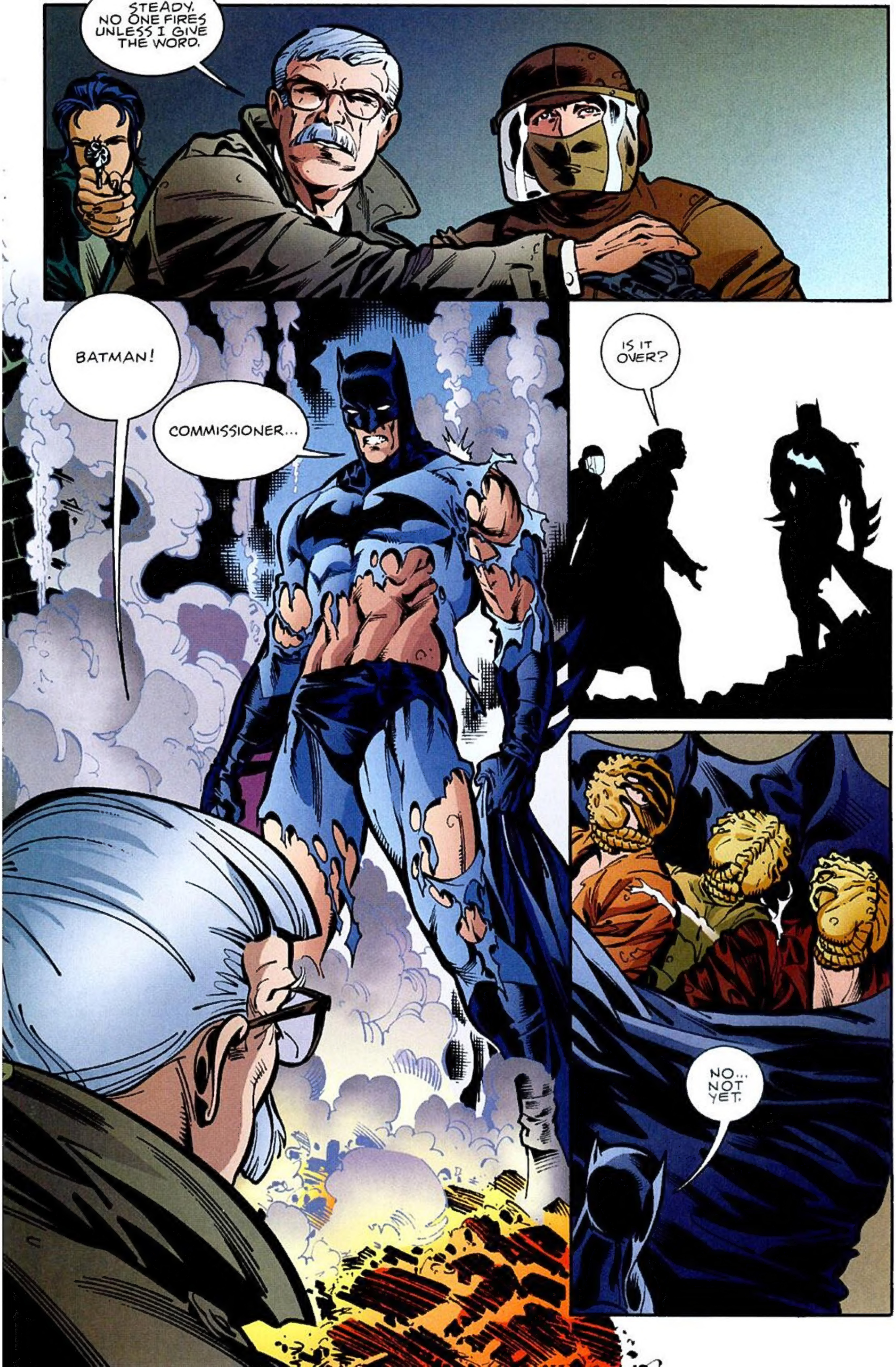

CLEVER. ONE KEEPS ME BUSY WHILE THE OTHER CUTS OFF MY RETREAT.
THEY'RE SMARTER THAN I'D GIVEN THEM CREDIT FOR.
PAFF
EEEEEE!
WHICH MAKES THEM TEN TIMES MORE DANGEROUS.

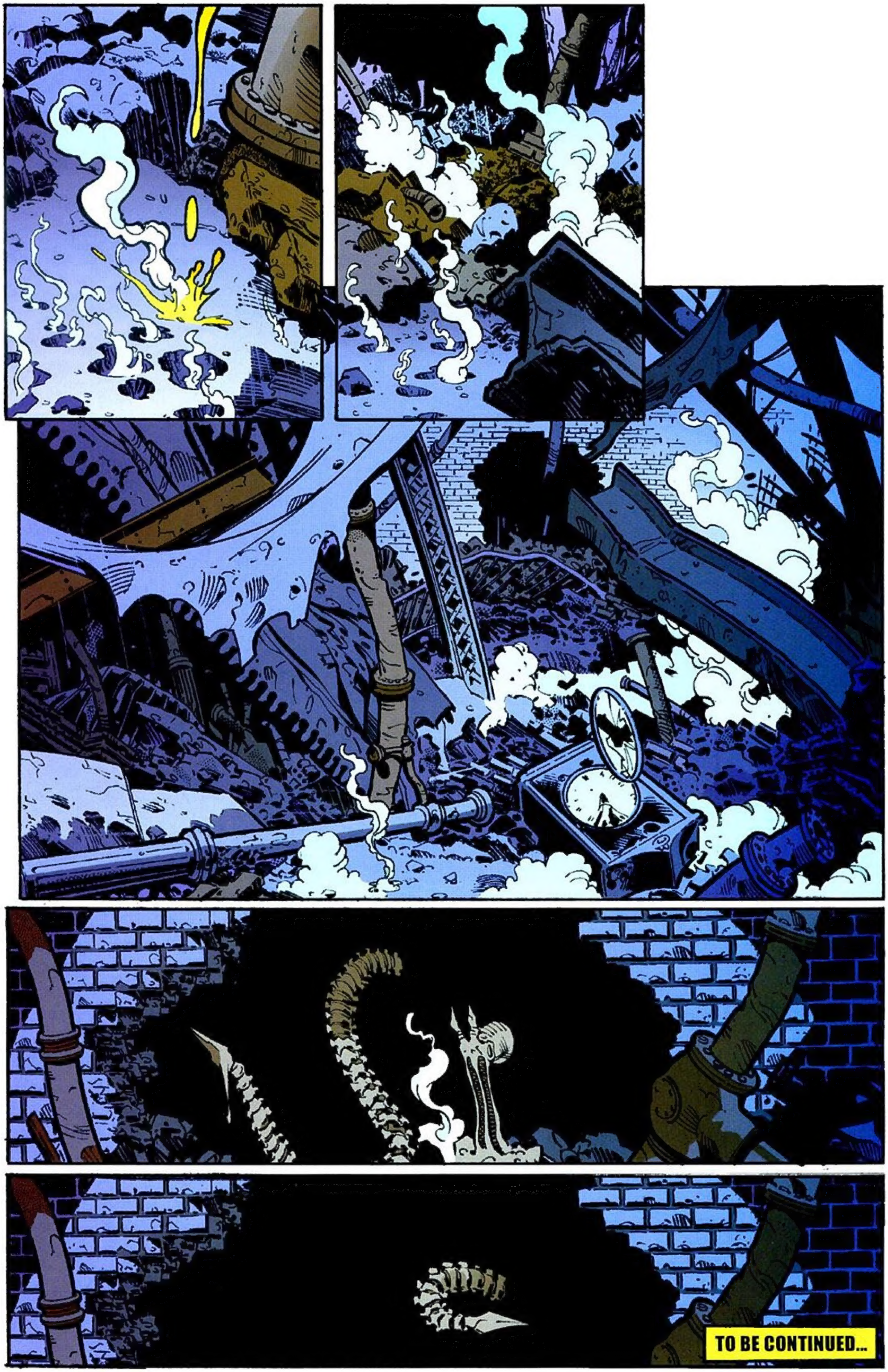

UHH
SSSSAA
GNN
PAFF


TINK
KIIIIII
ZZIIKK
EEEEEEE


SKKKSH!
THE ALIEN'S ACIDIC BLOOD... IT'S IGNITED THE THERMITE IN MY BELT!


JEEZ!
SOMETHING'S COMING OUT!
SWAT


STEADY. NO ONE FIRES UNLESS I GIVE THE WORD.
BATMAN!
COMMISSIONER...
IS IT OVER?
NO... NOT YET.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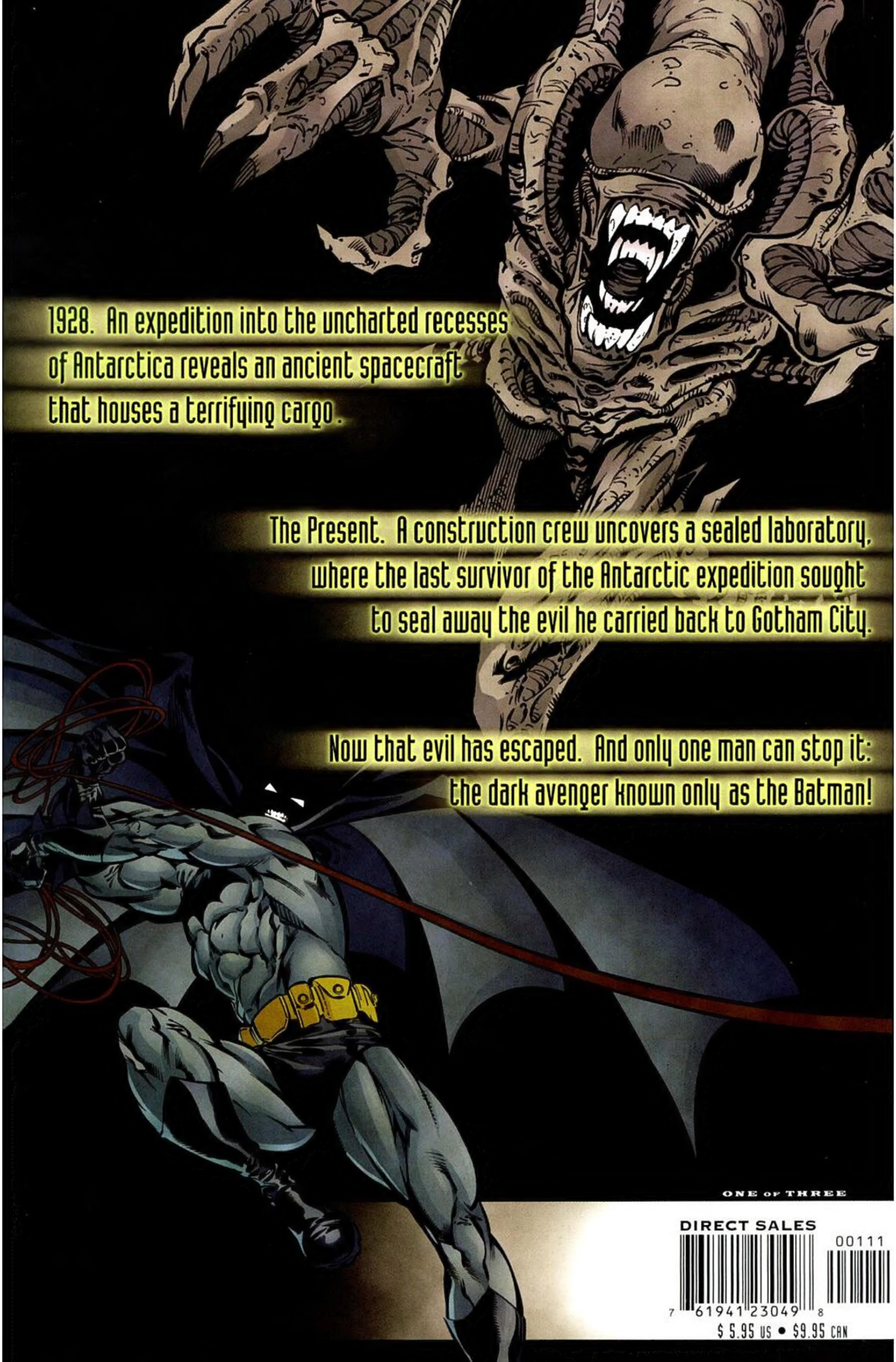

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